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Affairs Of Wool And Sheep

Paramount Issues:

An industry or a business, like a political party, is in a bad way when it has no paramount issue or issues.

Wherever there is progress there is always some particular matter requiring attention. Such a question need not necessarily be such as to be viewed with alarm or to threaten extinction. The most inviting and popular issues are those that arise outside our own circles but there are times when the sheepman's paramount issue lies in his own flocks and lands. Better and cheaper production are constant issues. They become paramount when outside matters are in a good way and do not call for the full effort of the organization which guards and speaks for the interests of the business.

With the passage of tariff and agricultural credit laws and some slight relief from high freight rates the Wool Grower counselled the recognition of improvement in marketing and production as the issues of the hour. These must have continued attention and can well engage the most earnest study and debate in coming conventions of stockmen. Another matter has now come into the open in a way that vitally affects the wool grower and requires to be made prominent in the discussion and actions of all associations. This is the policy of the Federal government in relation to grazing upon open and unreserved public lands and upon lands lying within National Forest.

The Public Domain and the Government:

The government of the United States has never had a real policy in respect to its lands. When the Western territories were unknown and unoccupied the public land areas with which Congress and the government

departments were concerned, were of a class mainly suitable for close settlement and cultivation in 160 acre lots. It was then good policy to facilitate the rapid passage of these lands into private ownership and to protect the settler by not allowing the purchase of large blocks upon which a profit might later be exacted in resale to the pioneer home builders.

This policy has never been modified or adjusted to meet the best interests of the nation in application to the class of lands that can be utilized only for grazing of live stock. In fact it can conservatively be said that no real policy exists so far as Western States are concerned. Matters have been allowed to drift. Distress and anarchy have been the result in a vast number of cases in which settlers have been permitted and encouraged to attempt the cultivation of lands which never had a prospect of supporting a home. The lands suitable for agriculture have never been set apart and labelled as suitable for intensive use. The areas useful only for grazing have not been defined nor have any regulations been promulgated to give security or permanency to the business of stockmen who have advanced the frontier and relied upon the Government fairly to appraise and protect the only industry it was or is possible to conduct upon these vast areas—stock raising.

Forest Service Policy:

This matter now becomes paramount as a result of the proposal to make an increase of from 50% to 100 per cent in the charges for grazing stock in National Forests. It calls for a decision as to the policy and principles which are to govern these operations in the future. The time of safety in allowing this matter to drift has long since passed and the

whole question should now be canvassed and settled. If sheep and cattle growers are to be exploited as a result of the decision of one or two appointed officials to commercialize the National Forests then that policy should be approved by the Government and uncertainty removed from the operations and business of those affected. It may be that Congress will approve such a policy. If so the West will accept it. At present there is no limit to what the Department of Agriculture may do or may charge in regulating grazing in the Forests. It seems improbable that either Secretary Wallace or Chief Forester Greeley have appreciated the full significance or effect of what is now shown to be the result of commercializing a resource that is already incorporated with the assets of the live stock business in a way that makes the total cost of grass used higher than sheep and cattlemen can pay and remain solvent.

The Winter Range.

The proposed bill, as printed in the June Wool Grower, for regulating grazing on public lands outside the Forests and now largely used for winter range, will doubtless be up for consideration this winter. This plan offers possibilities of advantage to stockmen and to Western communities and states. The objects sought are worthy ones but the plan has the cardinal defect of being merely an extension of the powers and activities of officials without providing adequate limitations upon their action or statement of policy to be followed. It seems as though it would be well to first dispose of the issue raised by the proposed increase in fees for grazing in the Forests before extending that system to the winter range lands.

HEARINGS ON LIVE STOCK FREIGHT RATES

Two very important cases affecting charges for transportation of live stock are now awaiting decision by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Hearings have been held upon a

complaint filed by Iowa packers upon present freight rates charged for transporting dressed meats from central states to the Atlantic seaboard. It is quite apparent that a decision favorable to the complainants named would affect packers located in Omaha and Chicago as well, and would give them a material advantage over operators who slaughter at Eastern points and who are competitors for live stock in Chicago and the river markets.

Toward the close of the war it became apparent that an increased proportion of the meat consumed in Eastern states was being slaughtered near those points, and that a large proportion of the meat so handled was purchased on foot at Western markets. It was stated that the smaller operators had expanded their operations in this way while the larger ones were concerning themselves more largely with Government and export contracts. It was also stated that the large concerns had reached the limit of size consistent with economical operation and that the smaller firms were reaping the advantage of closer personal supervision and better contact with their customers, the retail butchers of the East.

Whatever the real reason for this change may have been, it is certain that the extra competition for live stock at Western markets was very beneficial to shippers generally. At some seasons of the year about one-third of the entire live stock receipts at Chicago have been purchased and shipped on foot to fill Eastern orders. The value of the support given to the market through these orders is well known to sheepmen who have been on the Chicago market after Jersey City and other Eastern points have received the bulk of native lambs raised east of Ohio and have commenced coming to Chicago for supplies. Commission houses at Omaha have also cultivated this trade with advantage to themselves and to consignors to that market.

The complaint of the packers seeks to remove the advantage now enjoyed by these smaller Eastern concerns

through a freight rate upon live animals which, it is claimed, gives them a material transportation advantage over the firms slaughtering at Western points and transporting their product under the dressed meat rates.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is opposing the complaint of the packers, as is also the National Livestock Exchange, which includes commission houses at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and other markets.

Another important case is based on the joint complaint of the American National Livestock Association and the National Wool Growers Association. The object sought is the publication and use of more favorable rates to apply on cattle and sheep handled by two different lines of railroads on routes between different range sections or between range points and localities in which cattle or sheep are finished for market. At the present time most Western lines have fairly reasonable rates for such movements of live stock when handled exclusively by their own lines. However, it is found that in case such a shipment needs to go by two lines, it is compelled to pay the local rate applying to the distance traveled on the second line. Such rates are invariably higher on shorter distances.

Request was made for establishment of rates for this class of shipments on the same basis as was put into effect by the Interstate Commerce Commission some years ago for movements in Texas and adjoining states. Similar rates have also been prescribed for interstate shipments between Arizona and California.

The second hearing upon this case opened at Denver on October 22nd and continued for five days. Eighteen representatives of railroads opposed the request of the stockmen's associations, which were chiefly presented by the Secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, assisted by the Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association and Mr. J. F. Shaughnessy, chairman of the Public Service Commission of Nevada, and appearing as the representative of shippers in that state.

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Higher Grazing Fees Result of Re-Appraisal

Stockmen and Forest Officers In Conference at Salt Lake, Pocatello, and Boise

The increased fees for grazing on the National Forests have been announced by the Forest Service for forests located in Utah and Idaho. The figures for Nevada and California are to be made known soon and those for other forests will be forthcoming in the near future.

From one hundred to three hundred per cent is the increase in the fees proposed as a result of the work of re-appraisal, which has been conducted during the last two years following the announcement by the Forest Service in 1920 of its intention to recognize commercial value as the basis for determining what charges should be made for permits to graze live stock on the National Forests.

It is proposed that these fees shall go into effect for the grazing season of 1925. The amount of the new fees is being made known by representatives of the Forest Service at conferences with stockmen. The first of these conferences was held at Salt Lake on October 31st.

Salt Lake

This meeting was presided over by Mr. C. S. Rachford, inspector of grazing on the Washington staff of the Forest Service. The entire work of re-appraisal of grazing lands and determining commercial value has been under the supervision of Mr. Rachford. District and local officers have collected data for their territories and many stockmen have contributed facts and information regarding prices paid for grazing on lands outside of the forests.

The Salt Lake meeting was attended by thirty stockmen representing users of eight National Forests located in Utah. Representatives of the district office at Ogden and the supervisors for each of the forests concerned were also present. Mr. Rachford explained the objects and methods employed in the re-appraisal work. It was shown that the figures obtained from all points in the state had been combined and put together in such a

way as to show for sheep and for cattle, on the basis of the charge per head per month, the average price actually paid during recent years by stockmen for the use of private lands. A considerable number of reports upon private lands were excluded on account of being too high owing to the fact that the lease prices really included advantages apart from the grazing itself. Only a very few cases were excluded from the average on account of being too low. The Utah average figure for cost of sheep grazing upon private lands during recent years was derived from figures covering 26,000 sheep and 55,000 acres of land.

A system was employed to show the relation of grazing value on each individual forest or part of a forest with the average figure representing the price paid for private lands in the state. In both cases the results are stated in cents per head per month for sheep and for cattle.

The present rate of charge is $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per head per month for sheep and 10 cents for cattle upon the Ashley, Dixie-Sevier, Kaibab, La Sal, and Powell-Sevier Forests. On the other Utah forests the charge is 3 cents per head per month for sheep and 12 cents for cattle.

For the eight Utah forests the proposed fees are as follows:

| Forest: | Cattle per head per mo | Sheep per head per mo. |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| La Sal: | | |
| South Division | 25.9 & 25.2 | 4.6 |
| North Division | 28.6 | 7.8 |
| Ashley: | | |
| North Division | 26.1 | 5.4 |
| South Division | 22.5 | |
| Dixie: | | |
| East Side | 31.6 | |
| West Side | 30.8 | |
| Sevier: East Side | 37.2 | 7.9 |
| Sevier: West Side | 31.7 | 8.5 |
| Manti: | | |
| West Side | 22.5 | |
| East Side | 23.6 | 8.6 |
| Fillmore: | Average .. | 6.1 |
| | 30) | 8.1 |

| Fishlake: | |
|----------------|-----|
| Average .. | 31 |
| Dist. 6 .. | 5.2 |
| Dist. 7-9 .. | 5.2 |
| Dists. 10-8 .. | 8. |

| Powell: | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Dark Valley .. | 33.3 |
| North Slope .. | 33.6 |
| East & South Slope .. | 27 |
| East Fork & Pines .. | 30 |
| Balance .. | 30 |

| Uinta: | |
|-----------------------|------|
| District 6 .. | 28.1 |
| Main Division .. | 35.7 |
| District 1 .. | 30.7 |
| Districts 7-8-9-10 .. | 30.6 |

| Wasatch: | |
|------------|------|
| West .. | 28.6 |
| Central .. | 30.5 |
| East .. | 37. |

The responsibility of the Forest Service for attempting to place fees upon a commercial basis was clearly shown in the discussion at the Salt Lake conference. While it was stated that the Forest Service believes the sentiment of the Agricultural Committee of the lower house of Congress approves this plan, yet it was admitted that there has never been a record vote by any Congressional committee, or by either house of Congress that could be interpreted as a mandate for the application of the commercial value plan.

While the Utah stockmen objected vigorously to the idea of commercializing the grazing upon the National Forests, yet it was apparent that the Forest Service representatives present were acting under instructions from the Washington office and were not the ones who were responsible for the movement. In view of this situation, the following resolution was adopted by the stockmen attending the conference:

"That we are unalterably opposed to the plan of commercializing the public domain lying within the National Forests;

"That it is unjust to those who are struggling to keep alive the live-stock industry, which is so essential to the permanence of agriculture in any country;

"That it is un-American in principle and contrary to the long-established policy of our Government;

"That it is unnecessary to make profit out of the necessity of the frontiersman;

"That the present fees are more than ample to cover the cost of administering grazing on the National Forests and for making improvements; and

"That the users of the grazing on the National Forests are now paying fees sufficient for these purposes and in addition partly to maintain the schools for which they are taxed on their own property."

Arrangements were made for the appointment of a stockmen's committee to make an examination of the data and methods used in arriving at a figure representing the commercial value of grazing. Whether or not this committee will submit a criticism of the methods employed was not determined upon, but it was very plain that the Utah forest users will continue to object to the entire undertaking, which has now for the first time been placed in a form to show its real effect and purpose.

Approval was expressed of the fairness of the work as done by the local and district forest employes who have been charged with the task of determining commercial value. Their position has been a difficult one and will doubtless continue to be more embarrassing. It would seem that the Washington office has never yet fully appreciated the real significance of the plan devised, nor properly recognized the relation of forest grazing to the property and personal rights of the holders of grazing permits.

While the field employes have followed out their instructions in a very fair manner, serious question must be raised as to whether they really have determined what is "commercial value." It might rather be said that, in the main, and subject to some criticism, they have determined the market prices of grazing during recent

years. On the other hand it is apparent to every student of the Western live-stock situation, that the going prices of grazing have been higher than are warranted. There is a great distinction to be made between market prices and true value. The former is much the easier to determine. To arrive at a figure which truly represents the value of the grazing is an undertaking too large and too complicated for any one office or one set of men. It appears that in this matter the entire conception of the Forest Service is based upon a fallacy and that there is no good or proper reason for placing forest fees upon any basis other than that of defraying the cost of administration of grazing matters and of providing necessary improvements for the utilization of the grazing resources.

Pocatello

The conference held at Pocatello on November 6, was attended by thirty stockmen representing cattle and sheep raisers having permits upon seven forests: Cache, Bridger, Caribou, Minidoka, Targhee, Teton and Wyoming. As at Salt Lake the general plan was explained by Mr. C. S. Rachford, while Messrs. Winkler, Woods and Shoemaker from the district office at Ogden explained the details of collecting data to show commercial value and of making calculations on this basis of the value of the grazing in the forests concerned. The supervisors of the forests of these groups were also present.

It was shown that 27 cents per head per month was found to be the average figure for grazing cattle upon the private lands for which data were secured in this area. This figure compares with 10 and 12 cents per head a month now being paid on the forests. After making allowances for differences existing between value of grazing on private lands and on forest lands the revised figures for grazing cattle on the National Forests show an average increase of 100 per cent.

These figures for cattle grazing in this group were based upon 28 cases including 18,000 cattle grazed on 159,000 acres of private lands for an average period of 4.7 months. It was argued by some of the cattlemen present that 18,000 cattle was too small a number to be used in determining the commercial value of grazing furnished to 165,000 cattle running upon the seven forests under consideration. Some of the sheepmen present also objected to the plan of basing the fees upon the average price paid for all private lands studied in the area for which data were obtained. Individual cases were set forth in which forest permittees are able to obtain grazing upon leased lands at a lower rate per head per month than they are now paying on the forest. The method employed by the Forest Service is to use the average price of all private lands in the general area and to modify this figure according to whether the forest grazing is more or less desirable than that on the outside land. When adjusted for the various forests this resulted in an average increase of 50 per cent in the fees for grazing sheep.

The present charges for grazing sheep upon the forests represented at this meeting are 2½ cents per head per month in the case of two forests and 3 cents per head per month upon the other forests.

The figures arrived at by the Forest Service as representing the commercial value of grazing to be applied in 1925 are shown below for the various units which have been determined upon. The charge is to be uniform throughout these units or sections of the various forests. As will be noted there are some cases in which fewer units are recognized for sheep than for cattle.

| Forest | Cattle per head per mo. | Sheep per head per mo. |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cache: | | |
| Malad Division | 23.9c | 5.5 |
| District No. 9 | 23.1 | 4.1 |
| District No. 10 | 24.5 | 5.2 |
| Districts Nos. 1-2-7 | 30.5 | 5.2 |
| Districts Nos. 6-8 | 26.7 | 5.2 |
| District No. 5 | 20.9 | 5.2 |
| Bridger | 20.9 | 3.4 |

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| | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|-----|
| Caribou: | | | |
| Fall Creek Division | 27.5 | E. Side | 5.4 |
| Snake River Division | 26 | W. Side | 5.3 |
| Caribou—B | 23.8 | | |
| Bridge-Diamond | 24.3 | | |
| Tin Cup-McCoy | 27.5 | | |
| Dry Valley | 26.3 | | |
| Montpelier-Elk | 27 | | |
| Minidoka: | | | |
| Cassia | 23.9 | | 5.5 |
| Albion | 25.9 | | 5.8 |
| Remainder of Forest | 21.9 | | 5.4 |
| Targhee: | | | |
| Ind.-Mid. | 20.9 | Island Pk | 3.3 |
| W. C.—Beaver | 30.4 | Balance | 5.5 |
| E. C. Hotel | 19.4 | | |
| Island Park: | | | |
| Big Springs | 24.4 | | |
| Teton B-Moody | 21.2 | | |
| Swan Valley | 22.7 | | |
| Wyoming: | | | |
| East Side | 23.5 | | 4.6 |
| West Side | 22.2 | | 4.6 |

The following resolution was passed by the stockmen present:

"We, your committee appointed to draw up resolutions relative to the proposed increased rates in grazing fees on the Caribou, Cache, Targhee, Minidoka, Teton, Wyoming, and Bridger National Forests, beg leave to submit the following:

"We consider the plan of commercializing the grazing of the National Forest as unwise, unjust, uncalled for, and injurious to the livestock industry.

"In our opinion, this idea is based on a wholly inadequate and erroneous conception of the relation of the livestock industry to the country as a whole, and of the grazing resources in the National Forest to livestock production in the Western states, and is entirely unprecedented in principle and contrary to the policies of our Government.

"We call attention to the fact that grazing upon the National Forest now produces a revenue to the Federal Government amounting to \$2,000,000.00 per annum in excess of all expenses connected with the grazing administration of the forest.

"We consider it very unfortunate and unnecessary that this question should have been agitated over so long a period, and we earnestly request the Secretary of Agriculture and the Forest Service to continue the administration of grazing along the same

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lines of general broad policies that have been approved as fair by the stock growing interests."

Boise

Eight forests were represented in the conference at Boise, November 6th. The 1923 allowance on these forests was for 79,000 cattle and 850,000 sheep.

On six of these forests the present fees are twelve cents per head per month for cattle and three cents for sheep. On the others the rates are ten cents and two and one-half, respectively.

The commercial value of this grazing, as shown by the appraisal work and reported to the conference by the Forest Service is as follows:

| Forest: | Cattle per head per mo. | Sheep per head per mo. |
|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Boise: | | |
| District 1 | 23.1 | 4.8 |
| District 2 | 21.9 | 4.6 |
| Challis: | | |
| District 1 | 21.6 | 4.1 |
| District 2 | 18.3 | 4 |
| District 3 | 14.6 | 2.4 |
| Idaho: | | |
| District 1 | 23.1 | 4.4 |
| District 2 | 13.4 | 2.3 |
| Lemhi: | | |
| District 1 | 22.4 | 4.6 |
| District 2 | 19.9 | 4.1 |
| Payette: | | |
| District 1 | 18.9 | 4.8 |
| District 2 | 21.2 | 3.4 |
| District 3 | 14.2 | |
| Salmon: | | |
| District 1 | 21.1 | 4.8 |
| District 2 | 15.5 | 3.4 |
| District 3 | 9.8 | |
| Sawtooth: | | |
| District 1 | 25 | 5.1 |
| District 2 | 23.5 | 4.8 |
| District 3 | | 4.4 |
| Weiser | 22.8 | 4.8 |

USE OF NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS FOR ROADS AND SCHOOLS

The fees received for the use of the National Forests provide sufficient funds for their administration, protection and improvement, and also give material aid in the building and maintenance of roads and schools in the counties where the forests are located. Provision for use of part of the re-

ceipts from the National Forests in fostering roads and schools was first made in the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1906, when ten per cent of the receipts was ordered paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the state or territory in which the forest reserve lay, with the limitation, however, that the amount so paid should not be in excess of 40 per cent of the total income of the county from all other sources. The act of 1907 contained a similar provision, but in 1908, this 40 per cent clause was eliminated and the portion of the receipts to be used for schools and roads was increased from ten to twenty-five per cent. This provision of the act of 1908, which is now the law governing all National Forests, is as follows:

"That hereafter twenty-five per centum of all money received from each Forest Reserve during the fiscal year, including the year ending June 30, 1908, shall be paid at the end thereof by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State or Territory in which said reserve is situated, to be expended as the state or territorial legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the Forest Reserve is situated: Provided, that when any Forest Reserve is in more than one state or territory or county, the distributive share to each from the proceeds of said reserve, shall be proportional to its area therein."

Under this act a total of \$882,204 was paid states for the road and school fund during the year 1922. Arizona received \$103,512 (includes receipts on school-land sections); California, \$157,191; Colorado, \$75,861; Idaho, \$97,741; Montana, \$57,600; Nevada, \$14,191; New Mexico \$46,775 (includes receipts on school-land sections); Oregon \$110,015; Utah, \$39,758; Washington, \$69,303; Wyoming, \$44,987.

An additional ten per cent of the money received from the National Forests was made available by the act of 1912 for use in the construction and upkeep of roads and trails within the forests. These roads are in addition to those built from the National Forest permanent improvement fund. For the year 1922, a total of \$338,577 was received by the states under this provision. This makes a total of \$1,220,781 used out of the receipts from National Forests for the benefit of roads and schools during the year 1922.

Around the Range Country

WYOMING

The unusual amount of summer rain has made the fall range very good. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$8 to \$10 a ton, depending on the location. Practically no breeding ewes have changed hands. Some yearling ewes have moved at \$8 to \$9 and aged ewes have brought from \$3.50 to \$4. Most of the ewe lambs were sold this year, instead of being retained to build up the flocks.

An increase in the number of coyotes is noted here.

Deaver, Wyo. Chas. W. Taggart.

NEW MEXICO

Cedar Hill

The early fall range has been good, and a general feeling of optimism prevails here. Practically all of the lambs have gone to market. The feeders were shipped to Eastern points at prices ranging from \$10 to \$10.75. Not many breeding ewes changed hands. Ten to twelve dollars is asked for yearling ewes, and some aged ones moved at \$4 to \$8.

Coyotes are on the increase here, due to the fact that there are fewer trappers.

J. F. Ridenour.

MONTANA

The sheep business of eastern Montana, around the Miles City region, is in pretty good condition. Lamb prices are good, ten to twelve cents a pound live weight at dealers' yards. Lambs were not as heavy as was generally expected. Wether lambs that were raised and ranged north of Yellowstone River Valley went at an average of 50 to 58 pounds, with a few small lots reaching 66 pounds. A lot of lambs went to feeders in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio. Ewe lambs were bought to feed and sell as breed-



In the Land of the Woolies

UTAH

At this time (October 12th) the fall range is very dry. The hay crop is normal and is selling at \$7 per ton. Nearly all of the lambs have been marketed. Ten to ten and a half cents was paid for feeder lambs, which usually go to Colorado. Some breeding ewes have been sold. Yearlings are bringing \$11 to \$11.50, and aged ewes, \$4.50. About 60 per cent of the ewe lambs were held back this fall.

Sheepmen in this section are perfectly satisfied with the present condition of the industry.

Albert F. Mathis.
New Harmony, Utah.

Jicarilla

When considered as a whole the fall range is fairly good, though in spots, the grass is short. However, it is of good quality. Alfalfa hay is selling around \$30 a ton. No sales have been reported of any kind of ewes. All of the ewe lambs were held back, except those not desirable breeders.

Coyotes are on the decrease. This is attributed to the fact that the country is being settled up by homesteaders. Sheepmen here do not use forest lands and hence, are not particularly concerned with the regulations controlling their use.

Paul C. Wilson.

ers in next spring's market. Most of the lambs south of the valley were good, but light in weight, 45 to 50 pounds. Lambs on an average were in good flesh condition and also had healthy, clear, clean wool of good growth.

Old ewes sold well at from \$3 to \$5. Some went to feeders and some just changed hands. There was not much trading in young ewes, as prices were generally too high. One lot of four-year-old grade Cotswolds and Merinos sold for \$7 a head straight.

Sheep are in better health and flesh condition than a year ago. A heavy rain, which lasted several days and nights (September 24 to October 8)

and flooded the country, followed by warm weather, started the grass growing just as if it were in May. However, this rapid growth of new grass is looked upon with some apprehension by the stockmen, for if a hard steady cold spell comes soon, it is liable to mean poor winter feed. Before the rain feed was in fine condition for winter. There is plenty of hay, however, selling at an average price of \$8 a ton.

About 45,000 lambs have been shipped out of Miles City, and over 10,000 other sheep. It is hoped that the Eastern buyers will make good in the feeding and marketing end of the deal, as it will mean a better prospect

for future sales, and the Montana wool growers certainly need all they can get to balance the dark times of a few months back.

Montana now has no bounty law on coyotes. This was a decidedly narrow-sighted piece of law juggling that did not and does not please the average sheepman. It means a rapid increase in coyotes unless their hides bring a good price, for people will not trap and hunt them for fun. In the long winter months a lot of men follow trapping as a means of making part of a living, and the Government men cannot handle the whole job by any means. L. L. Givler.

Rosebud, Montana.

good, and roundups and shipments of cattle in good condition progressed favorably. During the month the upper ranges were mostly vacated. During the last week, snow in northern counties caused some slight deterioration of live stock.

Western Texas—Continued and copious rains kept the ranges from curing as they should, though both range and cattle were in fairly good condition; frosty weather in the last week was beneficial in curing the grass for winter.

New Mexico—Rain was too abundant early in the month in some sections, the curing of the grass being hindered, though cattle remained in good condition, as a general rule. Cooler, drier weather followed, with a beneficial effect, except in the Pecos Valley where rains continued.

Arizona—The grasses were matured, and water holes generally filled, making a propitious beginning for the winter; the weather has continued favorable for the curing of the grasses. Light snow fell in the last week, locally, but there was a good supply of browse above the snow.

California—Grass was abundant, and cattle were in good condition early in the month; but with the addition of stock from the mountains, and a deterioration of the fresher grasses due to warm, dry weather subsequently, large shipments of cattle were made into the Imperial Valley for field feeding. Practically all stock are now on winter range, these areas being better in northern counties than in southern.

Oregon—Copious rains early in the month damaged some hay but proved helpful to the ranges, and stock gained satisfactorily. Practically all stock left the mountain ranges during the month.

Washington—Good rains were beneficial to pastures, leaving them in good or excellent condition at the close. Live stock did well, and are in good condition.

October Weather on Western Ranges

By J. Cecil Alter

The following summary of weather, livestock, and range conditions has been compiled from the various reports and summaries of the United States Weather Bureau:

Utah—Stormy weather during the first ten days forced live stock out of the mountains because of snow, the precipitation at this time proving beneficial to the fall and winter ranges; but moisture has been deficient in the southern counties, particularly in the southwestern counties, where both range feed and water are scarce. Live stock have done fairly well as a rule, and during the last ten days, sheep were entering the winter ranges generally.

Nevada—Cattle and sheep drifted out of the mountains early in the month, in good condition generally. The winter ranges and fall pastures have done well, except in the southern portion, where moisture was needed. During the last ten days many sheep passed to the winter grazing ranges; but in the southern portion long trails were necessary to reach water.

Idaho—Good rains early in the month were beneficial to fall and win-

ter ranges, but stock were forced from the higher elevations by snow. Cattle and sheep have been in good or excellent condition generally, much stock being gathered for the market.

Montana—Heavy precipitation during the early part caused much loss of hay, but proved beneficial to growing grasses, and to grasses being seeded for next season. Many shipments were reported of stock in good or excellent condition. Frosty weather during the closing days is believed helpful to cattle, by curing the grasses.

Wyoming—Early shipments of stock showed much shrinkage because they were taken from uncured ranges. Frosty weather followed, which tended to diminish the amount of prospective feed. This, together with some hay losses due to rains, makes winter feed scarce in places. Rain, snow, and cold weather during the latter part of the month, combined with a snow cover in many places, caused an appreciable shrinkage of live stock, though most animals were in good condition and withstood the change very well.

Colorado—The ranges continued

PROLIFICACY OF RAMBOUILLET EWES

By W. E. Joseph
Montana Experiment Station.

That Rambouillet ewes are reasonably prolific when the feed conditions are favorable is indicated by records of the flock kept by the Montana Experiment Station during the past eight years. During that time there were records of 287 ewes bred, of which ten were dry and 277 lambed. Taking 287 ewes as the number for the calculation, the drop was 403 lambs, or 141 per cent, and the total number raised was 347 lambs, or 121 per cent. During the same time the Shropshire flock gave the following record: Of 119 ewes, two were dry. The drop was 177 lambs, or 149 per cent, and the total number raised was 156 lambs, or 132 per cent.

The average lambing period for the Rambouillet ewes was 39 days and for the Shropshire ewes 30 days. The differences in percentage of dry ewes and in the length of the lambing period may have been due in part to the number of ewes to one ram. The Rambouillet ewes per ram ran up to 60 one year and ranged from 30 to 40 two other years. The number of Shropshire ewes per ram never exceeded 30 head.

The prolificacy of the Shropshire ewes was not above average for the breed, but the prevailing idea seems to be that Rambouillet ewes are not generally as prolific as these records indicate. While the feed conditions were not exceptional, they were fairly favorable. These ewes were run on irrigated pasture, but they were not "flushed" at breeding time. The feed conditions varied somewhat from year to year. This fact is reflected in the varying percentages of lambs, the higher percentages resulting when the ewes were in better condition.

These records were not taken on 287 different ewes, as many of the ewes lambed several times during the period.

A rather unusual record was made by one ewe, which raised 13 lambs

by the time she was eight and one-half years old. She lambed seven times, raising one single lamb and six pairs of twins.

Neither the Rambouillet nor the Shropshire ewes of these flocks were selected on the basis of prolificacy. Individuality, wool production, and character of the lambs were the points on which selection was based.

THE COYOTE CONTROL WORK IN TEXAS AND COLORADO

Reports of the predatory animal work in all Western states with the exception of Montana, Colorado and Texas, were printed in the October issue of the Wool Grower. Since then summaries of the work have been received from Colorado and Texas, and are given in part below:

Texas

At the last session of the state legislature the bill providing for the use of state funds in co-operation with the Biological Survey in the destruction of predatory animals and injurious rodents was sponsored by the Cattle Raisers Association, the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and the Farm Bureau. The bill received no opposition in the senate, was engrossed in the house, but was killed in final passage. The work of the Survey, however, received the hearty endorsement and support of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, and financial co-operation, amounting to a total of \$12,754.29, was given by many individuals, wolf clubs, and county governments.

Men employed on Survey and co-operative funds worked a total of 5,555 days and succeeded in taking 1,586 true predatory animals during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923. The poison operations were uniformly successful. In the Panhandle section, 62,701 baits were distributed and 4,950 square miles covered. Some 13,020 baits were used in Culberson County and in one month the man who did the work there found a total of 115 dead coyotes. On the Indio Ranch in south Texas, 12,500 baits were put out and resulted in a kill of

1,000 coyotes, according to the estimate of the manager of the ranch.

Colorado

Co-operation in Colorado was carried on during the first five months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, with the State Game and Fish Commission. The money appropriated by the 23rd General Assembly ran out at that time and state co-operation was discontinued until May, 1923. During this interim the 24th General Assembly met and passed a bill providing for an appropriation of money for the predatory animal control work to be expended by the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners co-operating with the Biological Survey. The Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners has been very enthusiastic and whole-hearted in carrying out its part of the agreement, and the well-organized plan for conducting the work assures good results.

The poison campaigns of last fall and winter were especially successful. In every district where poison stations were placed, a considerable decrease was noted in the number of coyotes. It has been proven beyond a doubt in the past year that control work can be satisfactorily effected after first inaugurating and efficiently conducting a well planned campaign; in other words, it takes the initial start of heavy concentration at first, to be followed by careful survey for new animals drifting in which can be eliminated in a short time by well-placed poison stations.

During the fiscal year a total of \$25,968.84 was spent in predatory animal control work in Colorado, of which amount \$17,307.62 was furnished by the Federal government and the balance by the state, separate counties, and live-stock associations.

CORRECTION

In the October issue of the Wool Grower, the total expenditure of Government funds for the predatory animal work in the state of Utah is given as \$7,377, whereas the correct amount is \$35,423.

With the Lamb Feeders of Many States

By J. E. Poole.

As was the case a year ago, the winter sheep and lamb feeding situation is somewhat paradoxical. The Government estimate, while somewhat indefinite, conveys the impression that an increase in winter production compared with last season is assured. That such a condition does not impend west of the Missouri River is not open to dispute, consequently any material increase must develop in the corn belt or territory east of Chicago. The Government report points to a heavy July, August and September feeder movement through market gateways. It was 1,148,000 this year, compared with 830,000 in 1922, an increase of 38.3 per cent. Eight principal cornbelt states absorbed 930,000 sheep and lambs in this three-month period, compared with 699,000 in 1922, an increase of 33 per cent. As the October movement was of large volume, this probably represents the increase compared with last year for the entire season. Northern Colorado will feed about the same number as last year, but elsewhere in the trans-Missouri region winter production will be on a reduced scale, with the probable exception of Utah. Western feeders have found competition on thin stock from the corn belt too keen with adverse feed values and financial conditions to operate on an extensive scale. Their policy has been to let the other fellow have the thin stock and do what he can with it. Even in the relatively prosperous sheep raising sections of the West money is tight, while east of the Missouri River it has been available in reasonable abundance and at reasonable rates for feeding purposes.

Last year the cornbelt feeders were afraid of the lamb feeding game, but as practically everything in the farm feed lot made money, this timidity was dissipated. Cattle feeding was a bad proposition from a profit standpoint last winter, making a switch to lambs logical. Iowa and Michigan are con-

spicuous examples of this trend, as neither state cut much figure in the 1922 feeding lamb market. Iowa feeders cashed in last winter before the heavy lamb acquired unpopularity. Feed was low and good gains were made, so that farm feeders were in the market early for lambs, the result being the heaviest fall movement from range to feed lot in the history of the industry. Western lambs have demonstrated a capacity to harvest corn economically, so that when results show a fair market price for the grain consumed feeders figure that the operation has been satisfactory. Labor saving is of paramount importance to the Iowa farmer now, and as a combined agency for harvesting corn and

Most feeders in Iowa are without shed accommodations, running lambs in cornfields until they either "cud in" or are fat enough for the butcher. In the former emergency they go to Chicago, and if not ready for the knife, pass on to Michigan for further contact with corn. This year the market for fed lambs started late in October on a \$12.75 to \$13.25 basis, which is profitable, as cheap gains were made. Prediction is hereby made that the direct movement of thin Western lambs from Wyoming and Montana to these rapidly expanding lamb feeding centers in Iowa will increase.

Michigan has been a heavy purchaser of Western lambs, both at the market and on the range. Ohio and Indiana have also acquired considerably more than last year. Western lambs going into the hands of feeders east of Chicago are an uncertain proposition when ready for the market, as they go to Buffalo and elsewhere, satisfying local requirements and automatically repressing shipping competition at Chicago. In an aggregate sense, however, the number on feed is not great and if marketed conservatively will not damage prices. Fat lambs leaving feed lots west of the Missouri River are to a certain extent under control as they stop at feed lots adjacent to market to recuperate, being ordered in by commission houses as the market can absorb them; but Eastern stuff has a habit of running in "gobs," usually in response to sharp advances in price. In such instances it creates temporary congestion, damaging markets east and west, frequently smashing the dressed lamb market. On this account a more or less unstable trade may be expected until Eastern feed lots are depleted, which should be at an early date, the feed bill being onerous. Probability is that by the early part of January the bulk of the Western lambs that have gone into the hands of farm feeders



Rambouillet stud ram recently purchased by the University of Purdue at Lafayette, Indiana, from Bullard Bros. of Woodland, California. This sale is unique in that it shows that the East is gradually looking to the West for breeding stock.

spreading manure at one operation the lamb has no equal. It is a safer proposition from the standpoint of health and mortality than the stock pig, which is a recognized nuisance in a sanitary sense.

How Iowa has increased its direct movement of feeding lambs is indicated by a gain of thirteen per cent in Marion County, seven in Crawford, five in Ida and Jasper and four in Fremont, compared with last year. Many other feeding sections show gains up to three per cent.

east of the Missouri River will have gone to the shambles, clearing the decks for Colorado.

Texas has furnished a material accession to the feeder lamb supply this season, filling the Kansas City market for weeks in succession with a good class of thin stock that was in urgent demand by Missouri, Kansas and Iowa feeders. These lambs may also be figured in the visible supply to be marketed early in the winter, although some will be fed out.

Colorado is in a somewhat unique position this season, having a lot of corn to feed down. Indications point to a somewhat early movement, both in and out, as feeders are reluctant to put on excessive weight after their disastrous experience last winter with fat lambs weighing 90 pounds and up. The feed bill is also higher than a year ago, and initial cost of lambs was 11 to 12½ cents per pound. There will be a disposition to cut the feed bill, not only at home, but enroute to market, as it will cost about 6 cents per day per head to hold lambs at feeding stations adjacent to the markets.

In the Arkansas Valley section fewer lambs will be fed than last year. Las Animas territory will handle about 100,000 head, but Lamar, Rocky Ford, and Fowler will curtail operations.

In the Scotts Bluff section of Nebraska there will be some contraction compared with last year, when the industry was injudiciously financed, with unsatisfactory results. The sugar beet acreage in this section has increased, creating a lot of cheap feed that can be salvaged in no other way. There is a tendency among local bankers to confine operations to competent hands.

Idaho has shipped thin lambs to other feeding sections somewhat closely, owing to attractive prices and on the theory that a bird in the hand is good property. One feeder in the Burley district, who had planned to fatten 10,000 head, let them all go and he is no exception. If the fat lamb market gives a good account of itself, this side of January, Idaho may do

some late feeding, as it has an adequate supply of grain and forage, but in any event the winter output will be less than last year. Feeders are reluctant to pay more than \$6 for hay, while farmers are asking \$7.50 to \$8. Idaho bankers are disposed to encourage feeding by small operators who are able to handle old ewes and cut-back lambs economically on home-grown feed, running stock on stubble and in grain fields. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the feeding lambs available in Idaho have been sold at 10½ and 11 cents.

Feeding in the Billings section of Montana will be mainly old ewes, as practically the entire lamb crop of the state has been contracted to go elsewhere. Montana financial conditions do not favor extensive local feeding, and few farmers are in a position to buy lambs outright. If state banks were in better shape considerable farm feeding would be done. A considerable number of old ewes will be fed pulp.

Texas will do little feeding, its lamb crop having gone to Kansas City and found its way thence into the corn belt. The "come back" of the industry has permitted a heavy movement of thin lambs eastward. In some districts, notably Valverde, the increase is as high as 400 per cent compared with last year.

Oregon is not a winter feeding state, its surplus thin lambs going to Idaho and Colorado. Fewer than 10,000 will be fed on the Union Pacific and 20,000 to 25,000 elsewhere, practically all of which are destined for the Pacific coast market. Utah has a cheap wheat problem and as lamb feeding paid last season, will repeat the operation if thin lambs do not get too high.

In Arizona a few thousand broken-mouthed ewes will be fed, practically the entire crop of thin lambs having gone to Colorado feed lots. In California the output of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys will go to coast markets, San Francisco requiring about 70,000 and Los Angeles 45,000 monthly.

SHEEP AWARDS AT PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL

Hampshires and Rambouilletts were the outstanding sections in the sheep show at the very successful 13th annual renewal of the Pacific International Exposition, held at the Portland stock yards, November 3rd to 10th. The Wool Grower, at the time of going to press, has received only the awards made in the Hampshire and part of the Rambouillet classes.

Seven exhibitors staged a very strong show of Hampshires, which was judged by Mr. W. F. Renk of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. The awards printed below show the heavy winnings of the Thousand Springs Farm entries Mrs. Miller's importation, selected in England by Mr. Robert S. Blastock and recently delivered in Idaho, include a number of notable individuals as portrayed in the list of awards. In the pens of four rams lambs and four ewe lambs, the awards went to the Thousand Springs Farm's home-bred entries, which defeated the imported lambs. The Tyler Trophy, awarded by the secretary of the Hampshire Association for the best five ram lambs bred by the exhibitor went to the same flock. The official list of awards follows:

Hampshires

Ram, 2 years or over—First, Thousand Springs Farm, Wendell, Idaho, on Commander; second, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons, Monroe, Ore., on H. & S. 355; third, Thousand Springs Farm on Breamore Barton; fourth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons on H. & S. 563.

Ram, 1 year, under 2—First, Selway & Gardiner, Anaconda, Mont., on Pendley Brave Lad E. P. 72; second, Selway & Gardiner on Blenworth Swell E. P. 59; third, Thousand Springs Farm on The Shire; fourth, Thousand Springs Farm on unnamed; fifth, Foothills Farms, Inc., Carlton, Ore., on F. F. 142; sixth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons on H. & S. 829.

Ram lamb—First, Thousand Springs Farm on Jack Johnson T. S. F. 20; second, Foothills Farms, Inc., on F. F. 287; third, Foothills Farms, Inc., on F. F. 291; fourth, Thousand Springs Farm, on an imported lamb; fifth, Selway & Gardiner, Anaconda, Mont., on unnamed; sixth, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed.

Ewe, 2 years or over—First, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed; second, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons on H. & S. 595; third, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed; fourth, Thousand Springs Farm, Wendel, Idaho, on unnamed; fifth, University of Idaho on Bowers 2363; sixth, Foothills Farm, Inc., on Ayer 258.

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Champion ewe—Burlingame & Craig, on C. H. Craig 325.

Ewe, 1 year, under 2—First and second, Thousand Springs Farm; third, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed; fourth, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed; fifth, Foothills Farm, Inc., F. F. 155; sixth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons, H. & S. 833.

Ewe lamb—First, Thousand Springs Farm on Princess Martha TSF 14; second, Thousand Springs Farm on an imported lamb; third, Foothills Farm, Inc., F. F. 298; fourth, Selway & Gardiner on unnamed; fifth, Foothills Farm, Inc., F. F. 351; sixth, Howard Norris, Goldendale, Ore., on Norris E.

Flock—First, Selway & Gardiner; second, Thousand Springs Farm; third, Selway & Gardiner; fourth, Thousand Springs Farm; fifth, Foothills Farm, Inc.; sixth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons.

Flock, bred by exhibitor—First, Selway & Gardiner; second, Foothills Farm, Inc.; third, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons; fourth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons.

Pen, four lambs, either sex—First and second, Thousand Springs Farm; third, Foothills Farm, Inc.; fourth, Foothills Farm, Inc.; fifth, Selway & Gardiner; sixth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons.

Pen, four lambs, bred by exhibitor—First and second, Thousand Springs Farm; third, Foothills Farm, Inc.; fourth, Foothills Farm, Inc.; fifth, Selway & Gardiner; sixth, University of Idaho.

Get of sire—First, Thousand Springs Farm; second, Foothills Farm, Inc.; third, Thousand Springs Farm; fourth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons; fifth, Foothills Farm, Inc.; sixth, University of Idaho.

Produce of ewe—First, Thousand Springs Farm; second, Foothills Farm, Inc.; third, Thousand Springs Farm; fourth, Foothills Farm, Inc.; fifth, University of Idaho; sixth, J. G. S. Hubbard & Sons.

Champion ram—Selway & Gardiner on Pendley Brave Lad EP.

Champion ewe—Thousand Springs Farm on imported yearling.

Rambouilletts were represented by five exhibitors including a flock from British Columbia. Further statements regarding this show and illustrations of the champions will appear in our December issue. A partial list of awards follows:

Rambouilletts.

Ram two years old or over—First, Burlingame & Craig, Walla Walla, Wash., on C. H. Craig 330; second, University of Idaho on U. of I. 1422; third, Bullard Bros., Woodland, Calif., on unnamed E. A. B. 1297; fourth, Burlingame & Craig on C. H. Craig 323; fifth, J. M. Moran, Starbuck, Wash., on F. N. Bullard 537.

Ram, one year, under two—First, Bullard Bros., Woodland, Calif., on Golden Fleece E. A. B. 1690 R; second, J. M. Moran, Starbuck, Wash., on J. M. Moran 1909; third, U. of I. on U. of I. 31; fourth, Bullard Bros. on Gilt Edge E. A. B. 1786; fifth, Burlingame & Craig on C. H. Craig 360; sixth, Burlingame & Craig on D. B. Riser 200.

Ram lamb—First, Bullard Bros. on unnamed ram 2131; second, Bullard Bros. on unnamed ram 2181; third, University of Idaho on U. of I. 227; fourth, J. M. Moran on J. M. Moran 2155; fifth, University of Idaho on U. of I. 163; sixth, J. M. Moran on J. M. Moran 2105.

ARIZONA'S NEW PRESIDENT AND RETIRING SECRETARY

Mr. A. A. Johns of Prescott, Arizona, was elected at the last annual



A. A. Johns



F. W. Perkins

convention of the Arizona Wool Growers Association to succeed the late Hugh E. Campbell as president. Mr. Johns has been active for many years

in sheepmen's affairs and also those concerning the state as a whole. He brings to his new position a fund of information and enthusiasm, and a standing with state and national authorities that will ensure adequate representation of sheepmen's interests and progress in all association undertakings. Mr. Johns was recently chosen as the Arizona chairman of the Western Tariff Association.

The same session of the convention that elected President Johns also received a request from Judge F. W. Perkins to be relieved of the secretarial duties, which he has performed for the past seventeen years. During that period he also served on the executive committee and the National Advisory Board of the National Wool Growers Association. As secretary of the Arizona Association, Judge Perkins, with his excellent knowledge of sheep affairs and his legal training, gave very valuable service to sheepmen, and his relations with the National Association were always characterized by active support and loyalty.

As his successor, Judge Perkins suggested Mr. H. B. Embach, who was named for that position by the executive committee of the state association in August. Mr. Embach is active in the sheep-raising business and is familiar with the problems of the wool growers in his state. He was chosen to represent the Arizona Association at the conference held with the Forest Service last March in Ogden.

WOOL CONSUMPTION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

September's wool consumption is reported as amounting to 46,616,000 pounds, while that for August was 48,233,000 pounds. These figures include reports from 594 of the 607 woolen manufacturers in the United States. In September, 1922, the total consumption was 54,771,000 pounds and for August of that year, 57,340,000 pounds. The mills reporting show a total consumption for the nine months of this year of 494,062,000 pounds as compared to 473,164,000 for the first nine months of 1922.

A Western Trick In the Caucasus

By Mabell S. C. Smith.

How a flock of 500 sheep was driven over a precipitous mountain pass during a heavy snowstorm by means of a plan practiced by herdsmen in the Rockies is a story told by Near East

the plateau, which is about 5,000 feet high, over a 7,000-foot pass, and all went well until the last detachment started its upward climb.

Autumn had passed and winter



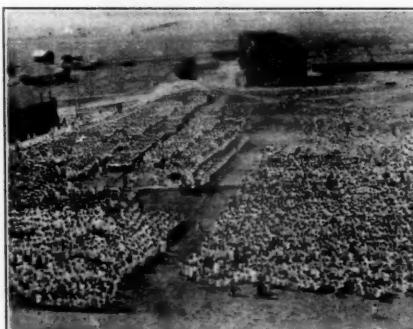
Shepherds and Flocks Are Much the Same As in Biblical Times.

Relief, the organization chartered by Congress to care for the orphans of the Levant.

Near East Relief is maintaining some 30,000 orphans in the Caucasus. Leonard Hartill, formerly head of the Department of Horticulture of the New York State Institute of Agriculture at Farmingdale, Long Island, is their Director of Agriculture in Russian Armenia. He is training the boys to be farmers like their ancestors. And not only to be farmers, but to be better farmers than their fathers, because they will know how to employ modern methods—deep plowing, rotation of crops and so on—and to use modern farm machinery—tractors, diskers, stackers and loaders. The value of blooded stock is impressed upon the youngsters by Hartill, and also how to select the best from the native herds and flocks.

One of the new agricultural stations is high in the mountains above Alexandropol, where Near East Relief maintains 17,000 children in the largest orphanage in the world. The sheep for this station were driven up from

had come while the transfer of these slow walkers was taking place. Snow was threatening on the day when the last flock took the road. The threat made good before the day was half done. The wind was high and the flakes whirled and drifted, making advance extremely difficult. There were



An Assemblage of Some Caucasian Orphans Supported by the Near East Relief.

three men and four of the largest of the orphan boys in charge. They had their work cut out for them to try to keep the sheep from shoving each other over the precipice at the side of the trail and from turning back on the

path when it doubled on itself as it twisted upward in a series of hairpin curves.

Above all else it was necessary to keep the sheep in motion and every hour made that more difficult. But the resourceful Hartill was prepared for just such an emergency. He had brought with him twenty head of steers and these creatures he used like an animated snow plow, driving them ahead of the sheep, sometimes driving them back and forth to beat down an especially heavy drift so that the short legs of the wool bearers could negotiate it. By this ingenious scheme the trip was made successfully, only two sheep being lost on the way.

The Alexandropol orphans are somewhat given to shouts of "America forever," thanks to their experiences of what America can do for them; the boys who shared in this adventure count it as one more reason for admiring American ways of doing things.

TRANSPORTATION INCREASES COST OF GRAZING ON FORESTS

The wool growers in this section feel that present forest charges are heavy considering distances, higher herder wages, greater price for provisions, and the increased maintenance cost of ranch property. Our sheep salt costs \$30 a ton at the railroad station, but costs \$40 more delivered on the reserve, besides a long pack with horses. The transportation rate applies on "grub" also.

Grasshoppers did some damage to the range, but in general the fall feed is good. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$8 a ton.

Quite a number of breeding ewes have been changing hands here. Yearling ewes are bringing \$10.50, aged ewes, \$9.50 to \$10. In eight cases out of ten, the ewe lambs were held back this fall to build up breeding bands.

The coyotes are on the increase here. I think this is on account of the fact that we are so far from Cheyenne that we do not get the services of the Biological Survey men.

A. T. Hedgecock.

Punteney, Wyoming.

California Association Activities

ANNUAL CONVENTION

A full report of the annual convention of the California Wool Growers Association scheduled to take place at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, on November 15th and 16th, with addresses by prominent Western men, discussions of timely problems by members, and a novel banquet, will appear in the December issue of the Wool Grower.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

The Humboldt County Wool Growers Association, October 15, 1923

The Humboldt County Wool Growers Association, a branch of the California Wool Growers Association, held its second annual meeting on Monday, October 15, 1923.

President W. H. Perrott of the association presided at the meeting and gave a brief report on the activities of the local association for the past year along lines of special service and of great benefit to its members.

Following a discussion of a sheep and wool exhibit at the County Fair, the association voted to display a larger and better exhibition of its products at next year's fair.

The matter of collective purchasing of material was discussed and it was decided to pool orders for burlap, twine, sacks, sheep dip, and other similar needs, the purchases to be made through some local supply house.

Following the transaction of other routine business, the annual election of officers was held and resulted in the selection of W. H. Perrott as president and Leonard Robinson as vice-president, to lead the organization for the year 1924, with the old board of directors, consisting of W. N. Russ, Eureka; Robert Barr, Maple Creek; Arthur Stover, Kerbel; W. E. Elliott, Loleta; D. Prior, Bluff Creek;

Will Clark, Petrolia, and Leonard Robinson, Garberville.

After the election of officers the meeting was turned over to the state officers, A. T. Spencer of Cranmore, Sutter County, president, and W. P. Wing of San Francisco, secretary. Mr. Wing acted as chairman.

Senator H. C. Nelson was the first speaker of the day. He briefly reviewed the legislative problems during the last session of the legislature affecting the agricultural and wool-growing interests in that section of the state.

H. Stewart, assistant inspector in charge of the predatory animal control work of the state of California, spoke on the procedure in carrying out this work in the state, the method of financing and the extent of the work.

Range improvement work was discussed by Dr. A. W. Sampson of the University of California, who used a group of charts to illustrate his talk. These charts showed the character of vegetation that invariably develops following excessive grazing of range land. Dr. Sampson outlined possible practicable methods of rejuvenating the ranges and pledged the co-operation of the University of California with various organizations interested in range improvement work.

Hubbard Russell of Los Angeles, president of the California Cattlemen's Association, spoke to the wool growers of the difficulties confronting the cattlemen of California in reference to the present marketing problems. He stated that the California Cattlemen's Association is working hard at the present time in an effort to remedy conditions, which are closely connected with both industries.

The activities of the Western Tariff Association, which recently met in Denver, Colorado, were outlined by A. T. Spencer, president of the California Wool Growers Association, who attended the meeting in Denver as a representative of the wool growers and cattlemen of California. His outline

of the meetings was very interesting and instructive to the local wool growers.

Mendocino, Sonoma, Lake Counties Wool Growers Association, October 17, 1923

The second annual meeting of the Mendocino, Sonoma, Lake Counties Wool Growers Association, a branch of the California Wool Growers Association, was held in Ukiah, Mendocino County, on October 17th.

Leading wool growers and others interested in the sheep industry from other sections of the state were present and addressed the meeting on subjects of benefit to the industry.

President Casper Ornbaum of the association presided at the meeting and briefly reported the activities of the organization during the past year. According to the president's annual report, the work includes many services of real benefit to the sheep industry, especially the fight to eradicate sheep scab and the coyote control work.

Quite a discussion took place relative to the coyote control campaign, the organization of the work, and the effectiveness of poisoning. R. K. Stewart, assistant predatory animal inspector of California, representing the Federal and state governments, explained the plans under operation in this county and the necessity for all sheepmen to co-operate in the work to bring about the greatest efficiency and economy. W. P. Wing, secretary of the state sheepmen's association, clearly pointed out that quicker and cheaper results could be obtained by the poison method. It was shown that every Western state is co-operating in this poison work at the present time.

Casper Ornbaum of Yorkville and William T. Clow of Willits, were selected as president and secretary of the organization for the year 1924, with the following comprising the board of directors: Wm. T. Clow, Willits; E. A. Ford, Ukiah; Fred Hibbard, Yorkville; Alex Rawles,

Boonville; Robert Caughey, Cloverdale; Harrison Mecham, Petaluma; Arch Asbill, Lake County; Ed. Gambre, Hopland; and F. T. Johnson, Round Valley.

After the election of officers, the meeting was turned over to the officers meeting over to the state association, with Secretary Wing acting as chairman.

Senator F. C. Handy, the first speaker, briefly outlined the value of organizations such as the wool growers' association in aiding the legislature. Assemblyman Patrick Connolly reviewed some of the problems affecting the agricultural and wool growing industries of that section of the state. Dr. J. P. Iverson highly complimented the growers for their excellent co-operation in fighting sheep diseases and told the sheepmen that only by constant watchfulness could lasting results be obtained.

Dr. A. W. Sampson, range specialist of the University of California, using charts to illustrate his talk, outlined suggested practical methods of rejuvenating the ranges depleted through excessive grazing. Several growers pledged themselves as willing to co-operate with Dr. Sampson in making further tests.

The possibilities and benefits to be derived from a sheep and wool exhibit were outlined and discussed by Charles Humbert of Santa Rosa and H. W. Weinland, the latter acting as spokesman for the county agents of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. As a result of this discussion, a committee to make plans for such an exhibit was appointed, consisting of Ed. Gambre, John Manning and George Jacobs, for the Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties Wool Growers Association; L. L. Hooper, president of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau; and C. E. Humbert, president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

The formation and purpose of the Western Tariff Association was explained by President A. T. Spencer, who, at the organization meeting of that association held at Denver, Colorado, last October 3rd and 4th, acted as representative of the California

Farm Bureau Federation, the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Wool Growers Association.

GRAZING CONFERENCE

A grazing conference was called by Professor B. H. Crocheton, director of agricultural extension at the University of California, on October 3rd, at Berkeley, California, to discuss and make plans for bettering the present situation. Representatives of the cattle and sheep industry, officials of the Forest Service and of the United States Department of Agriculture and members of the Agricultural Department of the College of Agriculture were present.

After a detailed discussion of the most pressing problems affecting improvement of ranges, it was decided that work which might increase the forage production of the California ranges was most important. Under this came deferred grazing, proper grazing capacity, range reseeding, introduction of new forage plants and supplementary feeding (growing more forage—use of silos, cottonseed cake, etc.).

Other projects which were considered as having a bearing on range improvement were the need of an increased use of purebred sires, cattle grading demonstrations, cattle auction sales (market cattle), wool grading demonstrations, sheep mating demonstrations, fire protection, rodent control, disease control and the elimination of poisonous plants. At the present time the Extension Division of the College of Agriculture, through the county agents, is doing some work along these lines.

Mr. J. W. Nelson, assistant chief of grazing, U. S. Forest Service, explained the beneficial effects of deferred grazing as practiced on the grazing lands of the National Forests. Hubbard Russell, president of the California Cattlemen's Association, showed how essential it was to graze the range properly and not overstock. He also emphasized the value of supplementary feeding and especially the use of cottonseed cake. Dr. Arthur

W. Sampson, professor of Range Management of the University of California, pointed out that deferred grazing was absolutely necessary on the grazing lands of this state if the sheep and cattlemen desired to keep up the present feeding capacity of the ranges. Secretary W. P. Wing of the California Wool Growers Association stated that regulation of the public lands was absolutely essential to provide for grazing on the public ranges in the future. In order to demonstrate the value of deferred grazing, Secretary R. M. Hagen of the California Cattlemen's Association stated that his association would see that fifty cattlemen in various sections of the state started deferred grazing on their properties. The California Wool Growers Association agreed to the same program.

To go further with this work it was agreed to hold a similar conference during the first week of January, 1924.

CO-OPERATIVE WORK IN PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL ORGANIZED

The plans of the Federal and state officials in charge of this season's campaign against the coyote in California include the division of the state into geographical units and the support of all the counties in each unit in putting the work over. It is understood that the Government employes will work only in those sections where the counties co-operate.

Through the efforts of the California Wool Growers Association, all of the counties in the coast section and in the Sacramento Valley, have agreed to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out an effective program.

GOOD RANGE FEED IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

We had more rain in eastern Washington during the month of October than I have seen for the last thirty years, and the grass on the winter range is the best I have ever seen for this time of the year. K. O. Kohler.

Ellensburg, Wash.

Can Lamb Markets Be Stabilized?

Is it possible to eliminate the frequent breaks in market prices that are so expensive and so discouraging to producers and which appear to be so completely beyond ability to foresee or to control? If a degree of control can be obtained over market prices sufficient to mitigate the severity of periodic depressions, then great benefit will result to all branches of the industry, and particularly to the producers.

In studying the possibilities of such stabilization and improvement, there must be a clear recognition of the scope of the undertaking and of the complications and conflict in the interests of shippers, distributors and consumers. It is necessary impartially and honestly to determine what are the principal causes of these price depressions and candidly to consider whether a useful degree of improvement is possible at any time. This calls for a location of the factors causing price changes and following that an examination as to whether these factors are susceptible of control. If these considerations suggest the wisdom of further effort, then a discussion of the means to be employed is in order and plans must be made to secure the continued and active participation of those within whose hands lies the power to apply the remedy.

In this and succeeding issues, the Wool Grower undertakes to summarize and present facts upon which such study must be based. Any reasonable and constructive effort to inaugurate improvement in such an important situation must be freed from all prejudices or hasty conclusions. The Wool Grower attempts in these articles fairly to survey the situation as it exists and to point out its conclusion as to the methods to be employed if stabilization is to be accomplished. Discussion of proposed and possible remedies will be included.

The views and criticisms of all those interested in, and conversant with the lamb market situation are

earnestly solicited. Neither the National Wool Growers Association, nor its official organ, holds any private opinion or pre-conceived ideas as to the causes of, or the remedy for the existing situation. There is no disposition to underestimate the size of the undertaking. There is a clear recognition of the great need of protecting sheep raisers from the disastrous effects of these too frequent sudden drops which often wipe out the profits of shippers marketing at a particular time when others, who by sheer good luck, arrive at the market a few days earlier or later, receive materially higher prices. The stabilization of the market means the stabilization of business and the diminishing of the factor of uncertainty, which is always a detriment to any producing enterprise.

HOLES IN THE 1923 MARKET

The course of prices during the marketing of the 1923 crop of lambs illustrates very plainly what are referred to as unforeseeable and disastrous price drops. During the five days of the week beginning on Monday, August 27th, the Chicago market received 101,000 sheep and lambs. This week was the highest in receipts for the year up to that time. Following the marketing of the Eastern and Southern lamb crop, and some unsettled conditions in the Eastern meat trade, top lambs brought \$14 per hundredweight from packers on Friday, August 17th. With a total of 93,000 lambs received between Monday, August 20th, and Friday, the 24th, inclusive, top quotations continued at \$14. By the following Wednesday, August 29th, \$13.50 was the highest price quoted and on the next Wednesday, September 5th, \$13.10 was the highest figure received for any sizable shipments. Shippers arriving at the market during the latter part of this period received practically \$1 per hundredweight less for their lambs than would have been obtained

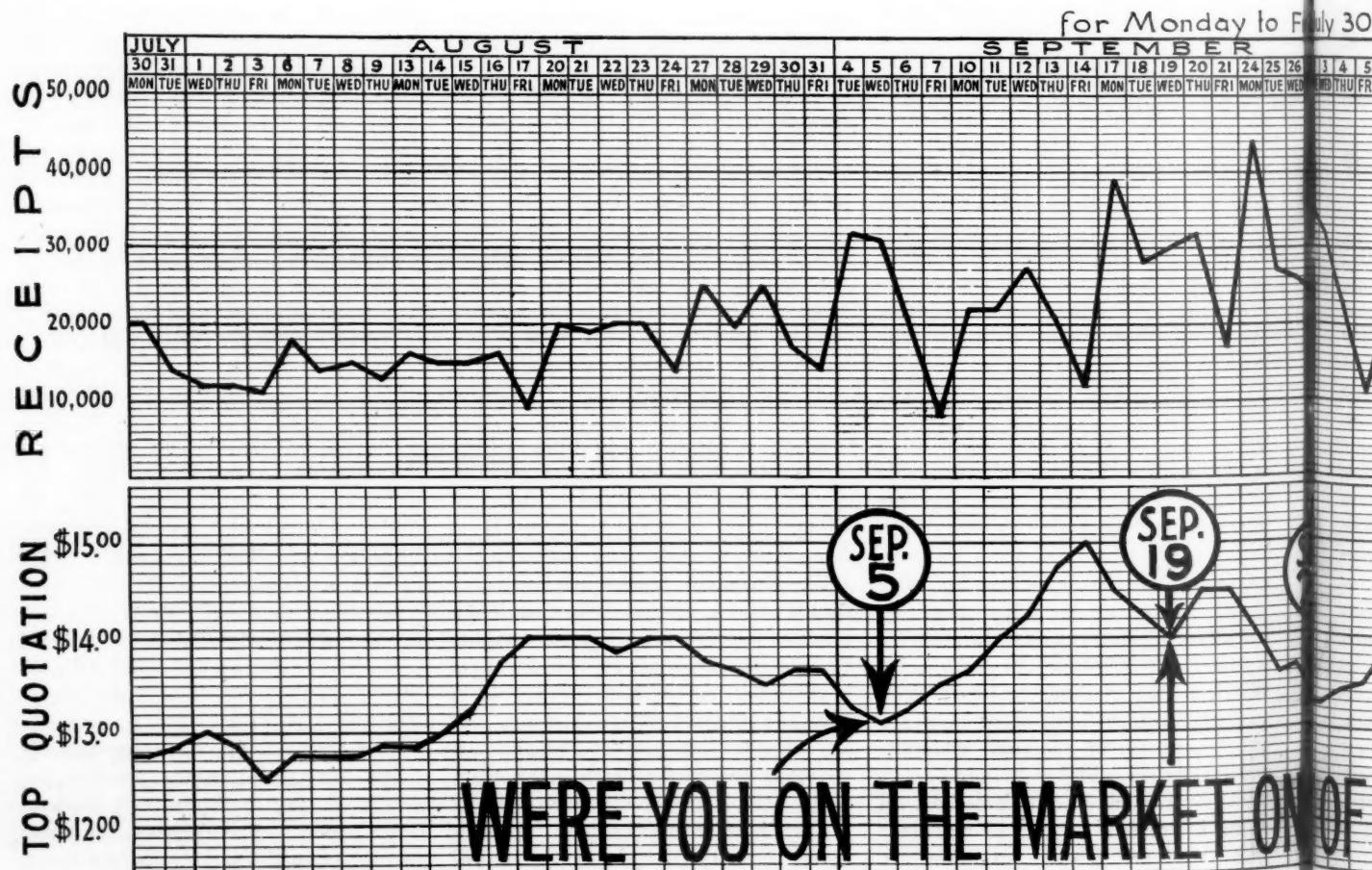
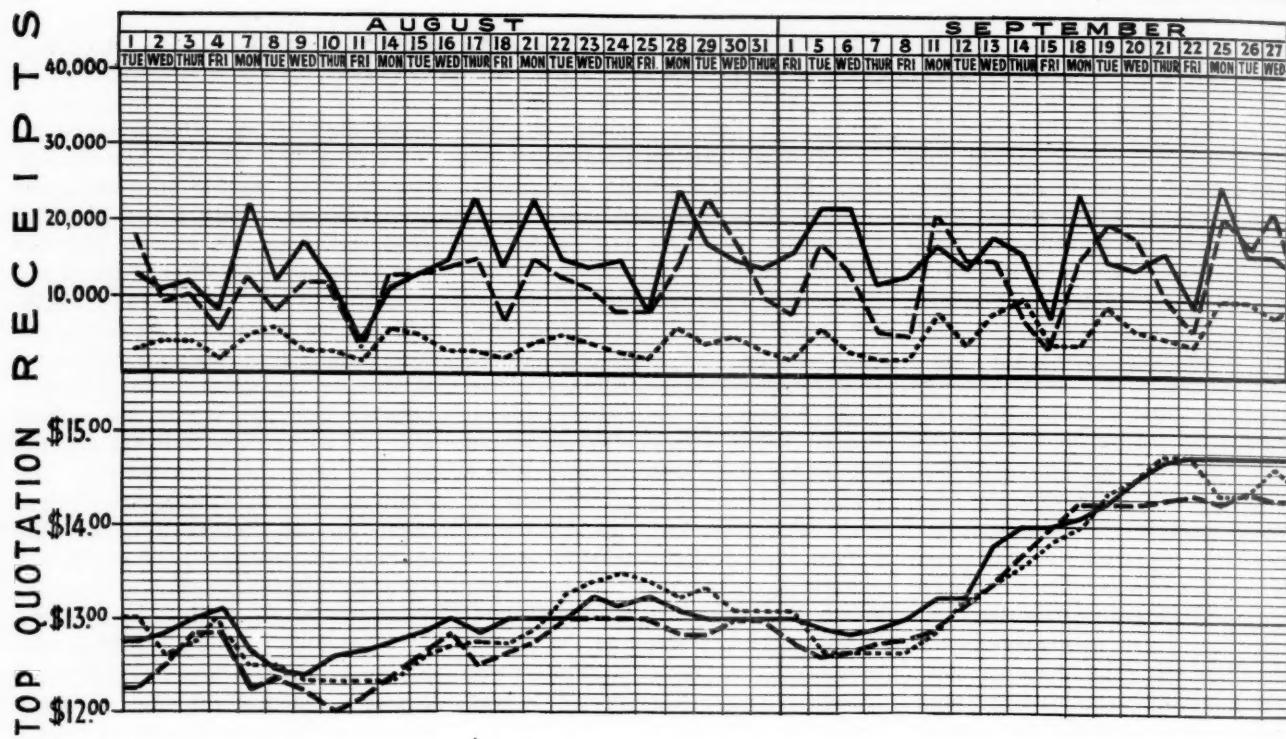
a few days earlier. One week later a price of \$14.25 was quoted. By Friday, the 14th, the \$15 price had again been realized. With a run of 44,000 head at Chicago on August 24th, the price was again down to \$14.10, and it continued to decline to \$13.25, which price ruled as a top quotation from Thursday, September 27th, until Wednesday, October 3rd. Monday, October 8th, again saw \$14 quoted and by Tuesday, the 16th, \$13 was the highest price to be obtained. The complete course of the season's prices cannot yet be presented. These few instances illustrate the statement that price depressions occur in a way that is disastrous to producers, who are wholly unable to foretell market conditions in such a way as to protect themselves against the effect of these changes. This inability is no reflection upon the shipper or upon any branch or interest of the trade. Things have continued for years to take their haphazard way and the producers are still paying the penalty for the entire lack of effort to set up any method or system that will result in the much needed stabilization. The occurrence of these drops in this year's market are shown in graphic form on pages 26 and 27.

WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW

The course of prices in 1922 are sharply in contrast to those of 1923. The 1922 figures may be taken as a fair example of steady markets. Although some drops came, and although there was a general tendency upward, the breaks in prices were neither so frequent or serious as in 1921 or 1923. The course of 1922 prices at Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City are shown in the lines charted in the lower part of the figure on pages 26 and 27.

The great bulk of shipments of range sheep and lambs reaches the market during the months of September, October and November, the latter month being the lightest of the three.

The Record of the Lamb Markets in



in 1922 and 1923 at a Glance



July 30th. to November 30th



Legend: Chicago ——
Omaha/Omaha/Kansas City - - -

The Chicago 1923 Market. Top Quotations for Killers, July 30 to November 2nd.

Every sheepman is interested in, and affected by the conditions which these charts present. If he does nothing more, he can afford to follow the solid black line in the upper part of the charts presenting the course of the markets in 1922 and 1923. On this line, which shows the volume of receipts at Chicago, attention may be focused alone on the Monday records. The figures at the left-hand side will indicate the number of head received and the corresponding line in the lower part of the chart gives the top quotations for the same day. An examination of these lines shows very plainly the intimate relation existing between daily market receipts and daily prices.

July and August bring a considerable volume of receipts, but these come more largely from the farming sections and from the earlier lambing regions of the West and are not so susceptible to price declines resulting from over-supply as are the arrivals of the later months. For this reason the data presented in this study have been limited to the months of August, September, October and November. The figures as presented on pages 26 and 27 relate only to these months and portray the volume of receipts and the prices at Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City.

The price figure used is the top quotation published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the markets concerned on the days shown. While not fully representative of the entire market, this chart is a reliable indication of the changes in the price level. Some allowance must be made for the fact that on some days a particular market may fail to receive any lambs with quality equal to the best shipments at another market. On this account the difference in the prices quoted for the two markets may be somewhat exaggerated. Changes in top quotations may not always show the full extent of price variations. It frequently happens that while prices are lowered only 25 or 30 cents per hundredweight, yet the sorting demanded and obtained with such price is of a character to be equal to a further price reduction. However, during the present season, feeder prices have been so strong that the value of the feeders sorted out has been practically equal to that of the killers during much of the time. In this respect, the top quotations of 1923 are unusually illustrative of the price records. Saturday's business is excluded from this record as that day's transactions are usually in the nature of cleaning up and seldom show any significant changes in price.

An examination of these price lines is illuminating to anyone searching for the causes of price fluctuations. The regular duties of sheepmen leave them little time for

studying such records, and it must be stated that because of this fact, they still suffer the effects of price variations, which continue without any serious attempt ever having been made to secure a more reasonable state of affairs. Every sheepman is interested in, and affected by the conditions which these charts present. If he does nothing more, he can afford to follow the solid black line in the upper part of the charts presenting the course of the markets in 1922 and 1923. On this line, which shows the volume of receipts at Chicago, attention may be focused alone on the Monday records. The figures at the left-hand side will indicate the number of head received and the corresponding line in the lower part of the chart gives the top quotations for the same day. An examination of these lines shows very plainly the intimate relation existing between daily market receipts and daily prices.

With increased production and larger market supplies still more unsettled price conditions may be looked for. The 1923 marketing, during the first nine months of the year was of about the same volume as in 1922 which was lower than in any year since 1918. The shipments of 1921 were larger than in either of the subsequent years and the erratic course of prices is still remembered, especially by those whose shipments were sold during the last week of August or the last week of September.

WHERE THE BUSINESS IS DONE

The excellent daily reports of the livestock markets published by the Market News Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, furnish complete and reliable statistics for practical examination of market and price affairs. Receipts and prices as shown in this study are taken entirely from these Government reports. Some allowance must be made, however, in comparing the given markets. The figures published for any one market necessarily include all arrivals at that point. This may mean that many cars purchased by one packer at another market have pre-

viously been included in the figures published for that point and again entered into the totals of the market to which they are shipped for slaughter. Also, figures for receipts necessarily include feeders which are again counted when returned to market for slaughter.

Because of these facts the receipts reported for any one market or for all markets are not a true representation of the numbers of lambs actually handled. However, the total of arrivals at any one market is a primary factor in determining the day's price even though a large proportion of the receipts are received direct and not placed on sale, or contain a large proportion of feeders which it might be supposed do not affect the price of the class of stuff sought for immediate slaughter.

The official reports of the number of sheep slaughtered under Federal inspection are much more reliable as a measure of the production of different years. The numbers of sheep and lambs actually slaughtered in plants having Federal inspection in 69 cities are shown below for recent years:

Total Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1919 | 12,646,000 |
| 1920 | 10,981,000 |
| 1921 | 12,858,000 |
| 1922 | 10,669,000 |
| 1923 first nine months | 7,677,000 |
| 1922 first nine months | 7,901,000 |

While market receipts as published include arrivals of all classes and also some duplicates the reports of numbers slaughtered at various points are the true reflection of the relative standing of the different markets in respect to slaughter and final sale. The conditions at these points should principally govern the prices paid for slaughter stock. Below are shown the numbers slaughtered in 1922 under Federal inspection at the twenty cities at the top of the list of 69 reported separately by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The other shipments shown represent the approximate number purchased for slaughtering at other points and received at such points as direct shipments:

| | Local Slaughter | Total Receipts | Stocker & Feed- er Shipments | Other Shipments |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chicago .. | 2,601,000 | 3,874,000 | 688,000 | 587,000 |
| Jersey City .. | 1,854,000 | 1,854,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Omaha .. | 1,440,000 | 2,533,000 | 757,000 | 166,000 |
| Kansas City .. | 1,000,000 | 1,574,000 | 385,000 | 176,000 |
| St. Joseph, Mo. .. | 576,000 | 730,000 | 113,000 | ..... |
| East St. Louis .. | 405,000 | 628,000 | 50,000 | ..... |
| Philadelphia .. | 345,000 | 352,000 | ..... | ..... |
| St. Paul .. | 319,000 | 499,000 | 66,000 | ..... |
| Detroit .. | 196,000 | 356,000 | 12,000 | ..... |
| Buffalo, N. Y. .. | 193,000 | 1,191,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Cleveland .. | 189,000 | 360,000 | 7,000 | ..... |
| Denver .. | 172,000 | 1,867,000 | 1,080,000 | 783,000 |
| Sioux City .. | 153,000 | 223,000 | 45,000 | ..... |
| Baltimore .. | 144,000 | 306,000 | 1,000 | ..... |
| New York .. | 143,000 | 143,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Pittsburg .. | 117,000 | 1,204,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Portland .. | 95,000 | 205,000 | 7,000 | ..... |
| Seattle .. | 69,000 | 70,000 | ..... | ..... |
| Indianapolis .. | 64,000 | 147,000 | 9,000 | ..... |
| Tacoma .. | 40,000 | 39,000 | ..... | ..... |

HOW PRICES ARE DETERMINED

The upper price limit for lamb, like that of other commodities, is determined by what the consuming public will pay. This does not mean that the producer regularly receives the consuming price, less the cost of service in handling and a reasonable profit thereon. The temporary price drops which so concern the producer are practically felt not at all by the consumer. It is the large volume of supplies purchased at these lower rates that affords opportunity for large profits in handling and distribution.

The Retail Butcher

Retail butchers are disinclined to vary prices. They seldom do so unless some class of meat continues at a lower wholesale price for sufficient length of time to invite fresh competition in merchandising. In such rare cases the consumers receive some benefit from the lowered wholesale and producers' prices. Retailers appear to be peculiarly resistant to lowering lamb prices when carcass prices slump. On the other hand an increase in carcass prices commonly means a refusal on the part of the retail butcher to make purchases. His counter price is adjusted at or about the maximum limit at which he can sell any material volume. An increase in prices paid by

him reduces his margin and prompts him to buy other meats upon which the expected margin can be obtained, and to force the sale of these until such time as he can obtain at lower figures the supplies of lamb which can be disposed of through his shop.

The Wholesalers

The opinion is commonly held that the meat packers reap large profits through declines on live lambs. It is reasonable to suppose that these interests buy as cheaply as the market conditions will permit and sell as high as the retail trade can be induced to buy. It is probably not true that carcass prices are voluntarily reduced following the laying in of a supply of cheaper lambs. Between September 17 and October 8, 1923, the price of choice lamb carcasses as quoted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for Chicago declined from 30 to 26 cents per pound. During the same period, top quotations for live lambs declined \$1.50 per hundredweight. On the other hand quite strong competition exists between the independent packers killing at Eastern points and those whose supplies are slaughtered in the West and shipped as dressed meat to the branch houses in Eastern states. As before stated, an advance in carcass prices is resisted by the retailers, and cases occur in which the

packer, who is a wholesaler, nets a loss upon some shipments or upon the business of one day, or even of a week. There appears to be sufficient competition in the wholesale trade in dressed sheep and lambs to insure the keeping of carcass prices approximately in line with the values at which they can profitably be sold in view of prices on foot. To slow Eastern markets is commonly ascribed the lowering of prices on live animals while a strong and buoyant demand is reflected in the prices received by producers and shippers.

Assurance of profit margins is inherent in the wholesaling of meat, or of any other commodity having frequent turn-overs. If losses are experienced, there is opportunity to make new purchases on a lower scale and thereby recoup previous reverses. The producer occupies an entirely different position. He must accept the price which the trade allows regardless of whether it means to him a profit or loss. On the other hand, so long as there is sufficient competition among distributors to keep the profit margin within reason, the producer receives the larger part of increased prices paid by consumers. There seems to be such competition among wholesalers. In retail circles the insuring to the producer of the increases paid by the consumer is less certain, but even here when taken on the average and over long periods, the margin of profit tends toward uniformity and secures for the producer a share of the enhanced consuming value of his product. The substantial truth of this statement is shown in the larger prices received by shippers of live stock in 1918 and 1919, when consumers were paying excessive prices. This affords the producer some compensation for his inability to protect himself against low price limits, which wipe out possibilities of profit, and both aspects of his position are peculiar to growers of practically all agricultural products.

The relation of receipts to prices as shown on pages 26 and 27 of this issue will be discussed in the December Wool Grower.

Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills

Melbourne, Australia,
September 17, 1923.

The Australian Workers' Union, representing the shearers and shearing shed hands throughout Australia, sprung a fine surprise on sheep owners last month when it filed an application with the Federal Arbitration Court for a very substantial increase in rates of pay. Only a short time previously officials of the union publicly announced that it was not intended to ask for any increase, and that members were to accept employment under the conditions laid down in last year's award. The men were doing this freely when the Commonwealth Statist happened to come along with his usual quarterly cost of living figures. Apparently some bright spirit connected with the union got hold of these and conceived the idea that they showed a sufficient rise to make it worth while having a fly at the court for an increase in pay.

The greatest surprise of all came when the judge who heard the case agreed with the union that the figures did justify raising shearing rates. This was despite the fact that the cost of living figures quoted only referred to one quarter of the year, and that a winter one, when foodstuffs always run away with more money than at any other time. He was also deaf to the argument that the bulk of the shearing would be carried out in the spring when the cost would probably be much lower. Under his new award the rate for shearing in the different states, Queensland excepted, has been increased from September 1st from \$8.40 to \$9.12 per 100 for flock sheep, while shed and station hands get a rise of from 96 cents to \$1.44 per week. This brings the wage of ordinary shed adult roustabouts, etc., up to \$18 a week with keep, and of station hands \$12.48 a week and keep. The advance represents a considerable extra tax on wool growers who are faced with exactly the same old "H. C. O. L." and have nobody to pass it on to. For-

tunately, the judge did not grant the shearers' application in full. It was for a rate of \$14.40 per 100.

The hearing of the application has not in any sense held up shearing. Unlike the shearers last year when the decision went against them, graziers are abiding by the order of the court and paying full rates. The only cause of delay is an occasional shower or storm. As regards the weather August was a dry month, almost every important pastoral district of the Commonwealth registering below the average rainfall. While these conditions admirably suited the south, which had experienced so much wet weather during May, June, and July, graziers in the central and northern divisions would have preferred to see a more seasonable and wetter month. A good deal of the latter country was very dry, with feed scarce, if not entirely absent. However, the eastern section, including the greater part of the central and northern districts of New South Wales, together with the southeast and central divisions of Queensland, gained some relief from storms the first week in September, but it can hardly be said that the season is safe. Patches of Queensland are in good heart, and it is to these that graziers in the dry belts of that state are looking for agistment country to carry their stock over until the monsoons set in.

Fat stock continue scarce and dear in all the eastern states, although there has been an easing in value in some cases. Last week ordinary trade cross-bred wethers, in wool, were selling in Melbourne at \$11 to \$12, ewes at \$9.12 to \$11, and small spring lambs at \$6.56 to \$7.20. In Sydney cross-bred wethers were fetching \$8.40 to \$9.60, ewes \$7.92 to \$8.64, and lambs \$7.92 to \$8.64. It must be understood that anything extra prime was a good deal higher.

With prices at the present level there can be no question of the freezing companies' buying for the frozen mutton and lamb export trade. Usual-

ly at this time of the year a fair export is taking place, but the stock season is fully a month late and it will probably be well into October before a start is made. Whether it will be a long or short, busy or quiet, season, it is impossible to say at the moment. It seems certain that no matter how favorable the market may be the output will not approach that of 1922-23, when two and three-quarter million carcasses were shipped from Australia. There are not wanting traders who hold that exports will barely reach half that total.

While on the subject of exports I may mention that a shipment of 47 special stud Merino sheep was made from Sydney to Argentina the last fortnight. Two rams and 42 ewes were from F. B. S. Falkiner's Haddon Rigg flock, and one ram and two ewes from the Body-Estates Bundemar stud both leading studs in New South Wales. I believe a shipment of Merinos has been, or is just about to be, made to South Africa. One hears reports of some recent purchases being made in New South Wales on behalf of breeders in the union.

An event of the widest interest to sheepmen is the opening of the new season wool sales in Sydney today. Catalogues including about 16,000 bales were submitted and a very satisfactory clearance, effected, buyers from all the leading consuming countries being present in strong force. The wools offered came mainly from Queensland, and the west and northwest of New South Wales, and although a good deal of the country suffered more or less from a drought for at least six months of the growing period, the condition of the various clips was quite fair. The fibre is less tender than anticipated and does not carry as much dust as might have been expected, all things considered. The buying competition from Europe was keen, particularly from France, the bulk of the offering being taken for that country. Representatives of the Japanese manufacturers, despite the terrible disaster that has overtaken their home land, bought a number of top lots. Americans only

purchased a few lines, and the same remark applies to Britishers. Bradford, we learn, is suffering severely from the competition of French mills, which, thanks to a depreciated currency, are in a position to undercut British manufacturers.

With only one day's sale gone it is rather early to speak dogmatically of new levels of values established. From telegraphic advices received, it appears that medium and inferior sorts, where suited to continental requirements, show an advance of 5 per cent as compared with closing rates in June. Faulty sorts were up as much as 10 per cent, and the advance in lambs' wool, taken by Continental operators, is reported to range from 10 to 15 per cent. The few cross-breds offered sold to French firms at 5 to 10 per cent dearer than in June. The top price for greasy Merino wools was 60 cents, and for scoured 97 cents.

The winter in New Zealand has wound up rather roughly, with fairly heavy snow in the ranges, and frosts and rain elsewhere. The general opinion among the weather wise is that the marked increase in the rainfall early this year, followed by the recent hard frosts, indicates a good spring. Outside the snow country, where fairly heavy losses have been recorded, sheep have wintered well. The lambing promises to be satisfactory on the whole. As breeding ewes are bringing solid prices, farmers are evidently looking forward to a satisfactory demand for fat lambs against next season.

According to figures published by the Live Stock Division of the Department of Agriculture, there were 4,410,000 lambs and 1,927,000 sheep slaughtered for export at the different packing houses in New Zealand last season. The figures for the previous year were 4,876,000 lambs and 3,071,000 sheep. The smaller mutton output can be attributed to the lack of fattening properties in pastures during 1923, due to excessive rains, and also to the fact that shipments in 1921-22 were so heavy as to cause a drain on the re-

sources of the country, which was reflected in 1922-23.

Although none of the New Zealand packing houses are now killing there is still a considerable amount of meat in cold store waiting shipment. Exports during August comprised 325,000 carcasses of lamb and 180,000 carcasses of mutton to the United Kingdom. The Meat Producers Board controls exports and is following the "canny" policy of regulating shipments so as not to flood the British market, thus keeping oversea values at a steady level.

KANSAS CITY COMMISSION HOUSES ON TRIAL

Hearings were conducted at Kansas City during October by the Packers and Stockyards Administration in respect to charges of unfair marketing practices as lodged against members of the exchange at that market. It was alleged that the commission houses having membership in the exchange had boycotted the co-operative agencies including the National Livestock Association's branch at Kansas City and the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company.

Before the completion of the hearings an adjournment was taken to permit conferences between the co-operative agencies and the old line concerns for the purpose of attempting to reach an agreement as to future procedure that would be in accordance with the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921.

This case is similar to one heard and decided at the East St. Louis market last year at which time the old line houses were ordered to cease and desist from the boycotting of the co-operative concerns. This boycotting has chiefly insisted in refusal to deal with the non-member and co-operative houses in the buying and selling of feeders. In some cases the representatives of the commission concerns have refused to do business with traders and others who deal with the co-operative agencies.

STOCKMEN'S EVENTS.

International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, December 1-8.

American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Annual Meeting, Chicago, December 4.

Nevada Land and Livestock Association's Convention, Winnemucca, Nev., December 18 and 19.

Fifth Annual Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah, January 8-12.

American National Livestock Association's Convention, Omaha, Nebr., January 15, 16 and 17.

Utah Wool Growers' Convention, Salt Lake City, January 21.

National Wool Growers Association's Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 22, 23 and 24.



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"JIMMY"

Jimmy is one of those unfortunate individuals who are born into the wrong sphere. To come into the world as an ordinary sheep when one would prefer to be a coyote hound; indeed a sad misfortune, but Jimmy's philosophy is evidently one of why let such things as conformation and covering matter. He is a bum lamb out of a common range ewe and a good average Hampshire ram, but he sleeps, eats and travels with four or five coyote hounds at Mr. Malcolm



Moncreiffe's ranch in Wyoming. Mr. Moncreiffe says: "I have tried several times to put him with other sheep, but he gets through or under any fence, and goes back to the hounds who meet him, lick his face, and show great pleasure at his return. And he can keep up a good strong run with them for two or three miles."

The above picture shows Jimmy and the hounds starting out on one of their jaunts.

NEVADA GOVERNOR'S STAND ON STOCK RAISERS' PROBLEMS

On account of being one of the principal public land states, it is fitting and proper that Nevada should play a leading part in the adjustment of the problems that arise in connection with the grazing of live stock upon public lands.

On November 10th, the Forest Service held a conference with Nevada stock raisers for the consideration of

the results of the attempt to appraise the commercial value of grazing on the forests. This conference was attended by Governor Scrugham, who took an active part in the conference and voiced the opinions of the stockmen to the effect that the undertaking of the Department of Agriculture to commercialize the grazing resources is entirely indefensible and should be opposed not only by stock raisers, but by Western interests generally, both on account of the effect of inequitable charges for grazing upon general business conditions and on account of the necessity of securing a national policy that is based upon justness and fairness to the industry which has been built up and is still largely dependent upon the resources controlled by the Federal government.

In an address delivered at Elko on October 30th, the governor also promised a reduction in taxes. He said:

"I do now pledge to the people of this state, and more particularly to the stockmen here assembled that the state tax rate will be reduced between five and six cents per hundred dollars at the next session of the legislature. I expect to do this by vetoing every appropriation bill that comes up at the legislature before the general appropriation bill goes through. Heretofore appropriations have been made in the legislature right up to the last few moments of the session and as a result no comprehensive idea as to what the tax rate would be could be obtained. By the use of the veto power, however, I expect to remedy this condition and bring the tax rate to an appreciable amount below the present figure."

WORK OF THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

The National Live Stock and Meat Board has issued its official report on the publicity work done during the Meat for Health Week, June 25-30. Five different window posters, each printed in four colors, window streamers, recipe booklets, large wagon banners, colored stickers reproducing the Department of Agriculture's meat poster, moving picture reels, and newspaper stories were the means by which the message was spread. There were approximately 4,118,058 pieces of advertising in the forms mentioned above distributed for use during the week. Wide dissemination of the material was made possible by the co-

operation of the following: Institute of American Meat Packers, United Master Butchers of America, National Meat Councils, meat retailers, National Live Stock Exchange, National Live Stock Producers Commission Association, United States Department of Agriculture, agricultural colleges, state boards of agriculture, live stock extension specialists, county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, national and district live stock associations, state live stock associations, live stock breed and record associations, fifty-eight railroads, radio broadcasting stations, hotels, Metropolitan Press, newspapers, Associated Press, United Press, International News Service, trade journals, hotel magazines, farm journals and breed papers.

The accomplishments of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, which is financed through the collection of five cents per car from the shipper or producer and five cents from the buyer, cannot, of course, be definitely stated, but it is interesting to note that the amount of Federally inspected meat consumed per capita during the first six months of this year was 6.89 pounds, or 14 per cent greater than for the same period in 1922.

IMPROVEMENT IN WOOL MARKET

During the second week of November, 40 cents was the price paid for cross-bred wools held by growers in western Wyoming. During the few days previous there had been considerable activity in clips held in Idaho and Wyoming at from 35 to 40 cents per pound. A dispatch from Boston under date of November 12th informs the Wool Grower that sellers in that market are becoming confident. Dealers in the market realize that wools sold at the prices that have ruled cannot be replaced in foreign markets except at advanced values. In view of this dealers have raised their asking prices, but for the most part the quotations are the same, though business is on a firmer basis.

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The Course of the Sheep Markets In October

CHICAGO

Violent fluctuations have marked the course of the lamb market recently and probably will until the crop of Western lambs on feed east of the Missouri River has gone to the shambles, when visible supply for the rest of the winter will be in strong hands and to a reasonable extent, under control. The market has a healthy undertone, enabling it to recover promptly from breaks. Native lambs have been closely garnered and are not a disturbing influence, but fed stuff running in cornfields is always an uncertain factor during November and December.

October delivered around one and one-half million head of sheep and lambs, mostly the latter, at the ten principal markets, or about 250,000 more than arrived during October, 1922, so that no apology was needed for the market performance, especially in view of the constantly demoralized conditions of the cattle and swine branches of the trade. Thousands of Western grass cattle sold anywhere from \$5 to \$7 per hundredweight and the bulk of an enormous hog supply at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per hundredweight, while few decent lambs had to take less than \$12.50 and a top was made at \$13.75. At the beginning of November good to choice lambs were worth \$12.75@13, on killing account; feeders \$12 to \$12.85; fat yearlings \$10@10.50; aged wethers, \$7.50@8, and fat ewes, \$4.50@6.25. Extreme fluctuations in October were \$1@1.50 per hundredweight within a week in the case of lambs and 50@75 cents on sheep.

The First Week

The first week of October ten principal markets received 384,000 head compared with 340,000 the corresponding week of 1922. Top lambs advanced 50 cents, medium killing grades and feeders declining 25@40 cents per hundredweight, sheep holding about steady. The best fat lambs made \$13.75,

bulk of the Westerns on killing account going over the scales at \$12.75@13.25, with feeders at \$12.50@13. Aged Western ewes sold at \$5.50@6.50, a few light ewes making \$6.75. It was a \$7.50@8.50 market for most of the aged wethers, two-year-olds being quotable to \$9. Canning and cull ewes sold at \$1@2.50 and inferior lambs as low as \$6.50. Bear raiding was attempted but killers were unable to get all the lambs they needed, short sorting being the rule. A large percentage of Western lambs was in feeder flesh and although prices declined 25@50 cents, everything was cleaned up, one lot making \$13.10 and the bulk of the 50@60-pound stuff going at \$12.50@13. Heavy lambs were penalized 15 to 25 cents per hundredweight, and light plain feeding lambs were unpopular at \$11@12, some going as low as \$8. Feeding ewes were in good demand at \$5@6 and breeding ewes were taken at \$6@7, a few heavy natives going out at \$4.25@5, while bunches of choice native ewes made \$10.

The Second Week

During the week ending October 13th, the ten markets handled 416,000, compared with 306,000 a year ago. As the increase was at Western markets, representing the usual fall feeder movement, Chicago advanced 25 cents on most lambs, many Westerns making \$13.75 under a light sort. This week was marked by the arrival of a considerable number of fed Western lambs from Iowa cornfields a class of which killers are always suspicious. They earned \$13@13.50, selling about 25 cents per hundredweight below fat Westerns. Middle grades of lambs, which were bumped the previous week, got best action and culls sold up to \$10.50. Fed yearling wethers sold at \$11.50, and aged wethers at \$9, fed ewes going over at \$7, although \$4.50@6 bought most of the fat native ewes. Shippers protected the market as Eastern killers' needs were in evidence at all times, furnishing keen competition

for the better grades of Western lambs. There was a marked scarcity of yearlings, a medium class selling at \$11. Most of the Western ewes were on the feeder order, light weights selling at \$6@6.50. Competition among killers eliminated sorting and reduced the available supply of feeding lambs, which advanced prices 25 cents per hundredweight, \$12.75@13 taking the bulk, with a few at \$13.25. Breeding stock was active, yearling breeding ewes going to the country at \$12 and several loads of twos and threes making \$10.75. Some aged Western ewes went to breeders at \$7.60, the bulk of that kind selling at \$7@7.50. Western ewes in feeder flesh sold at \$4.75@5.25.

The Third Week

Receipts at the ten markets during the third week were 365,000 against 317,000 last year. Laxity of Eastern demand was the principal cause of declines of \$1@1.50 per hundredweight in fat lambs, 75 cents to \$1 on cull lambs and fat yearlings, 50 to 75 cents on fat sheep and 25@50 cents on feeding and breeding stock. A \$13.75 top was made early in the week on Western lambs, but \$12.85 took the best later. Best yearling wethers sold at \$10.90 early in the week; aged wethers at \$8.50 and light ewes at \$6.50. Bulk of the feeding lambs went over at \$12.50@13, although \$12.75 was the limit at the bottom of the slump. Feeders paid \$10.50 for thin Western yearlings, feeding wethers sold at \$7@7.50 and most of the breeding ewes went out at \$7@7.50. Quality and condition of the whole offering was deficient.

The Fourth Week

During the last full week of the month the ten-market crop was 308,000 against 316,000 last year. Eastern shippers came to the rescue and a healthy trade developed, choice lambs selling back to \$13.50, or 75 cents above the bad close of the previous week, bulk of Western lambs selling at \$12.50@13.75. It was a \$10@10.50 market on most of the fat Western yearlings, aged

wethers sold largely at \$7.50@8 and Western ewes at \$5@6.50. Feeding lambs were hard to move at \$12@12.25 earlier in the week, but country buyers awoke when fat lambs advanced, paying up to \$12.50 late in the week. Fat sheep advanced 25@50 cents in sympathy with the 75-cent advance in lambs. There was a marked dearth of breeding stock with a keen demand, but feeder prices were off 25@50 cents with thin lambs, feeding ewes going at \$4@5.75 and wethers at \$5.25 @7.25.

During the half week at the end of the month the market was uncertain with a downward trend, suggesting what will happen on an excessive run. A few prime lambs sold at \$13.25@13.40; the bulk at \$12.75@13 and culs at \$9.50@10. Most of the good wethers cashed at \$8@8.50; ewes mainly at \$4.50@6 and feeding lambs at \$12.25 @12.75.

OMAHA

The first part of the month of October found fat lamb values working steadily toward higher levels; but about the middle of the month the market reversed its action and a ten-day down-turn ensued, only to be rescued by an improved local and outside demand and somewhat lighter supplies, which injected considerable recuperative power into the trade and brought about a sharp up-swing. Closing levels showed a moderate advance over initial figures for the month.

October cleaned up practically all of the season's run of Western fat lambs. Arrivals were of fairly liberal volume the first three weeks of the month, but tapered off the final week. The total receipts of 424,000 were around 2,000 larger than for September, and the heaviest October since the year 1918.

Wyoming and Idaho lambs started the month at \$12.25@12.75, and reached \$13.25 the second week, or within ten cents of the high time, and then receded sharply the fourth week touching the low point. Following this drop the market started a steady climb upward and

closed at the high time; lambs carrying killer flesh going at \$13@13.35.

Business in the feeder division was of moderately large proportions, due to the fact that the greater part of the month's supplies was of this class. Demand, however, taken as a whole, was rather indifferent. The first week of the month inquiries were numerous and absorbed the liberal offerings readily with the market ruling strong as the result, while from the second week on values showed a downward tendency. A slight touch of strength was noted at the extreme close with final levels a trifle over the low time. Shipments of feeders to the country were fairly large, 227,902 head, as compared with 160,742 head in October, 1922, the bulk of the movement going to Iowa and Nebraska. Desirable lambs cleared in a \$12.25@12.75 range, largely, with the month's high mark at \$13.

Fluctuations in aged sheep prices during the month were narrow, with only a fair supply offered. Weak spots in the market met with improved demand and quickly vanished, but on the advances there seemed to be a let-up in demand and price movements did not get far in either direction. The entire month found the market hovering close around the same level, despite the sharp fluctuations in the fat lamb division. Best light ewes touched a high figure for the month of \$6.15, but on only one occasion, top price with the exception of that one time being \$6, which was reached on several days. The closing week of the month found best light fat ewes moving at \$5.75@6. Wethers sold at \$7.50 on the close, compared with \$7.75 a month ago, with yearlings at \$9@10.

KANSAS CITY

The October sheep market developed more than the usual stability and price fluctuations held within a dollar range, and at the close of the month quotations were within 10 cents to 15 cents of the month's high point and 35 cents to 50 cents above September's close. There were two general ad-

vances with the month's low spot coming the third week. Then Western lambs sold at \$12 to \$12.25. The extreme high was \$13.25 to \$13.35 and on the close \$13.15 to \$13.30 was paid. October ended the big run of fat Western lambs which had been in progress since early August. Now short fed lambs are beginning to move marketward and will be offered in fairly liberal volume by the latter part of the month.

Taking the range marketing season, as a whole, prices have been fairly satisfactory, and in fact in such sharp contrast with prices that cattle and hogs have brought, that flockmasters have no reason to complain of the prices they received. With the sales of this year's wool clip and this year's lamb flockmasters are in a better position than at any previous time since 1918, and probably much better off than at any previous time in the history of the United States. There has been no over expansion in production, and no congestion in trade in any class of sheep, lambs or wool, and range conditions are such that breeding flocks should come through the winter in excellent shape. Most sheepmen consider the past three months a well-balanced season.

The bulk of the fat lambs received in Kansas City last month came from Utah and Colorado. Practically all were fat from mountain grass, and they not only were hard enough to ship well, but also killed out well. It has been a good many falls since there was as little culling of flocks at markets as was reported last month. Lambs seemed to have developed evenly, and average weight held around 68 to 76 pounds, and was well suited to popular killing demand. The other source of supply was Texas and while lambs from that state helped swell total numbers very few of them figured in sales, as the bulk of them was feeding lambs on through billing to Eastern feed lots.

Offerings of fat sheep were confined to range ewes that sold at \$5.25 to \$6.90, mostly \$5.75 to \$6.25. Some short fed wethers brought \$8 to \$8.50, and grass fat Texas wethers sold at

\$6.50 to \$7.50. Yearlings were lacking. Only a few feeding lambs sold in the open market last month. Most of them brought \$11.50 to \$12.25, and came from Texas, or were culls from Western bunches. One band of choice 58-pound Western lambs brought \$13. Though the movement of thin lambs from markets was small, the direct movement from ranges to feed lots was large, and indications are that fully as many lambs will be fed this winter as last. The corn belt will probably feed more, and there may be a slight decrease in irrigated feeding sections. Texas has supplied more lambs for finishing east of the Mississippi River than ever before. New Mexico and Arizona lambs have populated the Arkansas Valley, and northern Colorado and Nebraska are well supplied with Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado lambs. For the feeder to make any money at present price of feed and labor he will have to have an average slightly above 14 cents a pound for winter-fed lambs, and should death rates be as high as last winter he cannot get out at much less than 14½ cents. If present industrial conditions are continued prices for fat lambs will be fairly satisfactory, but no big margins can be expected.

October receipts in Kansas City were 215,343, or about 21,000 more than in the same month of 1922. In the ten months this year receipts were 1,472,407, or 117,000 more than in the first ten months of 1922.

C. M. P.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for the month of October, 99,502, against 74,360 of the corresponding month a year ago, show a gain of 25,142, or over 30 per cent. Receipts were largely from the range states, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Montana contributing to the receipts in the order named. During the latter part of the month there was also quite a movement back to market of lambs run in the corn fields. On the closing day's markets northeastern Colorado sent in lambs that had been handled in this

manner. The initial day's market for the month opened 25 cents lower, best Western lambs selling for \$12.50. On the closing day best Westerns sold for \$13.25, and the market throughout the month ranged largely between these figures. October 10th was the high spot, with Western lambs selling for \$13.50. Early in the month there was very little difference in the value of feeding lambs and fat lambs. However, the range widened as the month advanced, fat lambs working higher and the feeders lower, until on the close feeding lambs are selling about \$1 below the fat offerings. Native lambs on the closing sessions sold for \$13, and the Colorado cornfield lambs sold for \$13.15.

There were not a great many aged stock included in the receipts, and very little change in the market for the fat offerings of muttons. Breeding ewes were in good request early in the month, but there was very little demand for them after the second week in October. Rainy weather throughout the corn belt tended to narrow the demand for both feeding lambs and breeding ewes. There have been a few shipments here from the neighborhood of Springer, New Mexico, that were in good killing flesh, but practically all of the New Mexico lambs moved into the feed lots.

H. H. M.

DENVER

Denver broke some records in the sheep barns during the month of October just passed. Total receipts of sheep were 707,032 head—the largest number of sheep ever received on the Denver market in one month. The total supply for October, 1922, was but 521,685 head. For the ten months ending October 31st the receipts of sheep here total 1,574,649 head, as against 1,359,402 head for the same period of 1922. The October sheep receipts at Denver were larger than those for the same month at any other market in the country.

A good many of the lambs received at Denver were billed through on contract to feed lots and did not go on

sale. However, the offering was larger than ever before in the history of the market, and the sales made were correspondingly large. Twelve to \$12.25 took a good grade of fat and feeding lambs on this market at the beginning of October. At the close of the month choice fat lambs were selling up to \$12.75, while feeders of good quality were going back to the country at \$12. Choice fat ewes were quoted early in October at \$4.50 to \$4.75, while the same grades at the close of the month were bringing \$5 to \$5.50.

Large numbers of lambs are now going into Colorado feed lots, and present indications, based upon the ingoing shipments, as compared to those of one year ago, are that about the same number of sheep and lambs will be finished in Denver territory this year as last.

W. N. F.

EASTERN DEMAND THE FACTOR

Eastern killers have been keen contenders for fat lambs at Chicago most of the time recently and whenever demand from that source has weakened values have promptly declined. This activity on the part of small Eastern killers puts the packers under constant necessity of shipping live lambs to Eastern points to compete in fresh-dressed trade. It is a healthy situation that is likely to continue, as Eastern consumers prefer fresh-dressed lamb, and the coterie of small killers shows ability to keep in the trade.

LIBERAL MARKET RECEIPTS

During the June 15 to November 1 period, approximately 5,200,000 sheep and lambs reached the ten principal market centers compared with 4,680,000 in 1922. At Chicago receipts for that period were 225,000 in excess of last year. But for a broad and insistent feeder demand, it is improbable that prices would have been as well maintained; as it was the general level of lamb values was about \$1.50 per hundredweight lower than in 1922. A feature of this season's trade has been a practical parity between fat and feeding lambs.

Letter From a Shepherd to His Pal

In the Foothills,
November, 1923.

Dear Ern:

I got your letter where you complain that you got so much money saved up so you have to go into some business for yourself and that you've been studying about raising goats. Which it sure surprised me, Ern, it's such a new idee and I was wondering just how you happened to get it started. There's something funny about it too—you taking the money you made following a bunch of biddies for two long years and blowing it into a bunch of goats. It just naturally tickles my funny bone. Does it strike you that a goat is a improvement over a sheep?

Then you ask me what do I think of it. Well, Ern, I don't mind telling you that there's a awful lot about goats as I don't know. They are different from sheep, have different habits for one thing, and instead of raising wool and mutton they raise hare and kids. Besides that there must be something wrong with 'em someplace or there'd be more of 'em. They're as old a race as sheep, and look how many sheep there's in the world today—scads of 'em in Australia, Africa and Montana, and now where's your goats?

There was a guy I knowed as herded a flock of goats once and he got ten dollars a month extra, but he told me it cost him that much more to keep his shoes half soled on account them goats traveled all the time and it was all he could do to keep up. After a while he noticed as how they always come back to where they'd started from and he just stayed in camp. He got along fine after that, only his boss got next to his system and stopped his board and pay.

Now, Ern, if you'd a said that you was going to buy a hundred head of ewes and turn 'em in with your boss's outfit, why I'd a chipped in with my wad and sweetened the pot that much because I'd a knowed what we was

about; but I'll have to study about goats first. You see I figure this livestock game out about like this, that you start with grass—just plain grass, that's all. Now you come along with your savings and you're going to make this grass into something else—something you can drive away and sell. Well, you've got a lot of choice. You can make it into horses, and probably go to the poor house; you can make it into cattle—they don't pay neither, but there's something about 'em, romance, I think,—and you might get into the movies; you can turn it into sheep, and probably go into the First National Bank—but darn me if I can dope it out just where you'd go if you'd change your grass into goats!

It's a deep topic, Ern. Did you ever stop to figure out what becomes of the fellows as raises goats? Where do they go? You'd orto know because you'll be hitting the same trail once you get started.

Did you ever hear of a prominent citizen get up in anybody's senate and say Ladies and Gents, I represent the goats! No, of course you didn't. When you get up into the high places why you don't hear nothing about goats at all except once in a while when somebody is initiated into a lodge.

Here's another thing: when a bunch of statesmen wants to do business with a outside country and want to find out how that country is fixed why they look up and see how much does its populace assimilate per head of wolf, beer, Iron, Bull Durham or Cod Liver Oil. But they never inquire about goats, do they?

I have to take some of that back. I got a almanack here as says that Switzerland—that's half way between Asia Minor and Kopenhagen—is full of hotels and goats. The country is built like a stepladder and everything is either up or down. A cow couldn't negotiate Switzerland in a month, she'd get dizzy and fall off an alp—

you couldn't borrow four bits on a cow in Switzerland. Well, that's the place for goats. They milk 'em there, and according to this almanack the main national outdoor sport is to make up a little party of five or six ladies and gents, which they roll out before daylight, drink about two goats dry apiece, and then strike out into the alps. Then they pick out a life-sized alp, tie theirselves together with a long rope like a string of pack mules, only they're lots further apart, and climb a mile or two up into the perpendicular. When they get up where a goat wouldn't go no further they start yodeling. Sometimes they yodel too loud and fall off their alp which is quite a event. The one tied on the bottom usually gets purty badly peeled up, and now they mostly take' along a fat lady which experience has proved is the best for the tail end and inspires the others with confidence and makes the party a success. It gives 'em something to fall back on.

Of course, this ain't got nothing to do with your buying goats at all, because it ain't likely you'd drink the milk anyway, and if you did you'd probably want to fight bulls; but you'd better leave it alone altogether, I mean the milk.

You can tell me more about your goats when you write again. It's right close to Thanksgiving and right now I'm worried over the problem of how can I inject a casualty into somebody's turkey roost. I'd like to increase my occasions for being thankful and at the same time give some other guy the right to say it might have been worser. But there ain't a occupied dry farm within twenty miles, and it's further than that to the nearest chicken house, so maybe I'll have to content me and Old Spot with a couple of sagehens. Hope you have better advantages where you are and that your conscience don't bother you, but be careful and quiet or you ain't liable to be very thankful—well, no more this trip from,

Your Friend and Pal,

Richard A. Wormwood.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET

From the standpoint of volume alone the improvement noted last month in the Boston wool market has been continued. Heavy sales have been reported from week to week, and if that were all that was necessary to assure success, the market might be said to be satisfactory. But if it is certain that a big volume of wool has been moved, it is equally sure that much of the business has been done with little or no profit to the seller. In fact, it has been apparent all along that only abnormally low prices could attract the domestic manufacturer and get him to do more than cover his actual pressing needs.

According to experienced wool men, conditions in this market are still sub-normal, principally owing to a lack of sustained interest on the part of manufacturers. Yet there seems to have been developed a belief that the bottom has been reached in wool values, and those who want to get in on the lowest level must needs operate now. This is believed to have explained the continued operations of a leading spinner of hand knitting yarns. A month ago it was noted that this interest was operating on a large scale, but that was evidently only a beginning, as further large purchases are credited to the same buyer.

There is a natural tendency to exaggerate the extent of these transactions, especially in view of the discouraging conditions which prevailed until very lately. With a single interest credited in trade reports of having absorbed something like 10,000,000 pounds of wool during the past six weeks, and a few other buyers operating with more or less freedom, there is naturally a better feeling prevailing in this market. Some members of the trade doubt whether the weight of wool taken over by the knitting yarn interests have reached the totals popularly ascribed to them, but it is certain that a very large volume has actually been moved.

For reasons well understood in the wool trade, the improvement has come by way of medium and low wools.

For instance, the knitting yarn interest noted above started in with heavy purchases of quarter-blood fleeces. Sales are reported to have been made at 46, 46½, 47 and up to 47½ cents for good Ohio and Michigan quarter-bloods. The clearing of so large a volume of wool of a single grade naturally strengthened the ideas of the sellers and efforts were at once made to lift values a little. This was found to be exceedingly difficult, as when a mill buyer found a disposition to advance prices he promptly drew back. Too often he was able to find a soft spot elsewhere. This was so often done that it became a trite saying in the trade that "No one dares to let a prospective customer get out of the store for fear that he will find another willing to accept his low bids."

In some houses, a fairly good clearance has been made of quarter-blood fleeces, though recent purchases have not been confined to that grade. Three-eighths-bloods have also been changing hands to a considerable extent. Sales of good Ohio three-eighths-bloods are reported to have been made as low as 51 cents, and though some holders are still asking 53 cents, it is doubtful if any recent sales have been made at over 52 cents.

Other interests having found that the weakest spot in the market was on the low side, have stepped in and taken over a good volume of quarter-blood Territories. The clean basis for this grade in both fleeces and Territories appears to have been around 80 cents, though it is claimed that some good wools were bought as low as 78 cents, and others as high as 85 cents. The bulk of the business appears to have been done at around 80 to 82 cents. In the same way, sales of three-eighths-bloods are claimed to have been made on the basis of 96 to 98 cents clean, while others claim a clean cost of \$1 to \$1.02, and some have been nominally asking \$1.05 to \$1.10. This applies to both fleeces and Territories, though the former are usually sold on the grease basis, with an estimated shrinkage.

Efforts to buy some large holdings of consigned wools of the grades de-

sired are reported to have been made, but without success. It is claimed that bids were made on a large line of Iowa and Illinois quarter and three-eighths-bloods held on consignment in Chicago, but as far as known all were promptly turned down. Something has been done in Territory quarter-bloods at 42 to 44 cents, but here again it is reported that the leading lots of consigned wools are being held for more money.

From the spectacular standpoint, the operations of the knitting yarn people have easily been the outstanding feature of the month. Yet a more encouraging feature has been the movement of medium and low wools into the domestic trade. There has sprung up in recent weeks a more or less insistent demand for low wools to be used in the making of jersey cloth, bathing suits and the brushed wool sweaters, the latter being a popular feminine fad for the moment. Though subject to manifest limitations, which cause manufacturers to use considerable caution in stocking suitable wools too heavily, or in accepting too large a volume of orders, unless assured that they will "stick," the demand has been welcomed as a way to reduce holdings of low stock, which were previously too large to be comfortable.

Most of the wool absorbed by this demand has been low Territories and other domestic sorts, or foreign lots on which the duty was paid some time since and which have since been kicking about the market, or lots of wool in bond not good enough to be taken over for export. There has also been a considerable movement of noils and various grades of wastes, anything, in fact, of the cheap low order that could be made useful. As a result of this demand, there has been a considerable increase in the attention being paid to this section of the market. The wool trade has been encouraged to do a little speculative buying between dealers, more in fact than has been noted for months.

This has encouraged holders to tuck on a little to the prices hitherto asked for such wools, and as usual when

speculation is noted, a moderate enhancement of values follows. Low quarter-bloods have been selling on the clean basis of 65 to 70 cents, with common and braid at 55 to 60 cents. Recent events seem to suggest that the market is in a more or less topsy-turvy condition, with the "stickers" going first. Efforts to prove this would probably develop so many exceptions as to take away much of its force. Yet it is true that fine wools have been both scarce and neglected while medium and low wools have been selling freely. In view of the fact that the production of wool in the country is tending toward the low side the above may not be considered such a bad idea after all.

The above and other suggestions that can be gathered from the present position of the wool market indicate that the key to the whole wool textile situation still rests with the goods trade. Goods buyers insist that costs shall be kept down. As no one seems to have the courage to suggest or insist that labor shall forego its "pound of flesh," the unthinking naturally turn to wool as the easiest mark in the seeking after reduced costs. It is considered amazing that the wool trade should have been so ready to fall in with the schemes of those who are looking for low-priced wool. That they have suffered severe losses thereby is the claim of everybody connected with the industry.

Latest indications are that the bottom has been reached, and in some ways the market has definitely rallied from the recent low level. It is claimed that it will not do to listen to all the current suggestions as to low prices made to mill buyers. For instance, a substantial movement of Texas twelve-months' wool was made during the month, including some of the Kerrville and better clips. This wool sold at around 48 cents in the grease, but when the various estimates as to clean cost were published, it was found that the figures given out by different parties varied from 5 to 7 cents per clean pound. Manufacturers insisted that they were getting the wool at \$1.16 to \$1.18, while

some of the wool houses claimed a cost of \$1.22 to \$1.23 to be shown by their tests. Still others estimated the clean cost of their sales at \$1.20.

Montana consigned wools are held at \$1.30 to \$1.35 for fine staple, French combing \$1.25 to \$1.30, fine and fine-medium clothing \$1.15 to \$1.20, half-blood staple \$1.25 to \$1.30, and three-eighths-blood staple at \$1.05 to \$1.10.

On the other hand, good wools grown in other sections are undoubtedly to be had for less money. It is certain that such Territory wools of the finer sorts as have recently changed hands have been sold for less, as witness the recent sales of Texas twelve-months' at \$1.20, though not so long ago holders were refusing to accept so low a figure. The strength of the Territory wool situation lies primarily in the scarcity of really choice wools, and this comes from the unusually large holdings on consignment.

When the wool market may be expected to rally sufficiently to let the consigned wools be marketed in accordance with the ideas of value held in the West is a question. Just now that point seems to be somewhat remote, as good staple Territories can still be bought here for less money than it would cost to import Australian Merinos of equal usefulness and character.

The position of Ohio and similar fleeces is fairly steady, though prices have not been changed much in recent weeks. Delaines are generally held at 54 cents, but it is understood that no bids worth consideration are being received at over 53 cents. Some wools are being picked up in the country for which 50 to 51 cents is being paid. But this would not let dealers out whole, to say nothing of a profit under present market conditions here. It is known, however, that some of the recent purchases in Ohio have been for mill account and the wools are being shipped direct to the mills. Ohio half-blood combing is firmly held at 54 cents, with very little offering, and no sales reported.

While it may be said that the

weight of the unsatisfactory goods market is being placed on the side of lower prices, or at least to prevent a natural increase in wool values, no one looks for material change in a downward direction while foreign markets continue as strong as at present. This firmness abroad has caused the wool trade to consider replacement values seriously. It has been the fashion to cry down the market for so long, and there has been such a confirmed disposition to accept low prices for good wools, that it has come as something of a shock to find that America alone is depressed and uncertain.

At all the recent Australian auctions advancing prices have been noted as the better wools from the new clip are brought forward. Latest advices from thence indicate that this tendency is continuing, and that there is a general stiffening in all markets for good Merinos. Good clearances have been made at recent sales, with France and Japan the principal buyers, with Yorkshire buying moderately and America very little.

At the current series of the London wool sales, which opened October 23, the demand has been largely for cross-breds, especially for medium and low sorts, and the trend was strongly upward at the opening. With the exception of greasy and scoured Capes, which have developed some weakness at times, the market has continued strong, with good clearances being made from day to day. Yorkshire and the Continent have absorbed the bulk of the offerings, with America taking only occasional lots.

On the whole, the situation appears to have improved measurably during the past month. The continued demand for medium and low foreign wools to go abroad, added to the demand for low sorts in the domestic trade, has materially reduced the current offerings, and it is believed that there is no longer any chance of a serious slump in wool values, though the wool trade has found it a very difficult matter to lift values out of the rut.

SULPHUR USED BY OREGON ALFALFA GROWERS

The alfalfa growers in Oregon attracted wide interest four or five years ago by spreading sulphur on their alfalfa fields. It was announced at the time that this would greatly increase the yield and was of particular interest to stockmen whose prosperity depends upon large supplies of hay easily available in the range districts.

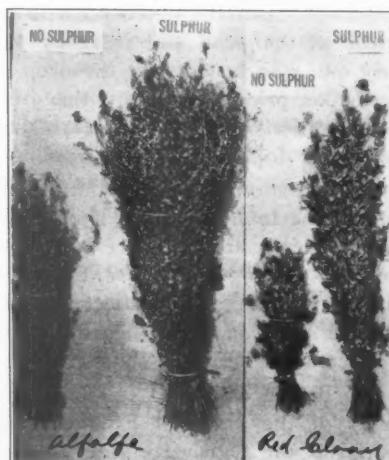
The wisdom of this practice has been abundantly proved. A hay man in central Oregon can invariably increase his alfalfa yield a ton per acre per year for three or four years, usually four, by applying 80 to 100 pounds of sulphur to his fields during the fall and winter months. Figuring in another way, since this application will not cost over \$3 he is getting an extra ton of hay per acre for the expenditure of less than a dollar as the costs of harvesting are largely fixed and there is but little more expense involved in harvesting a three-ton crop than a two-ton crop. That this is cheap hay all will admit. It is estimated that between 27,000 and 30,000 acres of alfalfa land is thus treated. In all 100,000 acres will respond.

The greatest activity in this connection is in central Oregon. Practically 90 per cent of the alfalfa land in Deschutes County has been treated and fully a third of it has received a second application. Probably half of the alfalfa land in Klamath County has been sulphured and 90 per cent of it in Lake County. Likewise in Wasco County large percentages of the stand have been treated and in Union County where phenomenal increases are secured, a large acreage has been sulphured. In this county the plan has been to use gypsum largely, the sulphur content of the gypsum increasing the yield. Only the stringent financial conditions of the past two or three years have prevented a wider adoption of this practice which was taken up with renewed activity last spring.

Two important alfalfa districts of the state do not respond owing to dif-

ferent soil conditions. But little return is gained from sulphur of the Umatilla County districts. Likewise in the Snake River Valley in Malheur County no results are obtained. By crossing the mountains into southern Oregon, Jackson County alfalfa fields are seventy-five per cent sulphured and in the past year or two it has developed that clover yields can be greatly increased on the red hill lands of the Willamette Valley.

Alfalfa grown on sulphur treated soil is heavier and is a deeper green in color and the root systems of the plants thus fertilized are two or three times as large as those grown on soils untreated. Of particular value to



The Effect of Sulphur on Alfalfa and Red Clover

stockmen, however, is the important point determined by the Oregon Experiment Station that there is an increase in the protein content of alfalfa hay when fertilized with sulphur sufficiently great to bring about an increased feeding value equal to the cost of the sulphur treatment. Another interesting point is the increase in sulphur content in the hay itself. The amount found in hay from fertilized areas has run in tests from 3.34 to 4.54 pounds of sulphur to the ton of hay, while the sulphur content from unfertilized fields ran from 2.4 to 2.55 pounds.

J. F. Hanson of Lakeview was the first Oregon man to apply sulphur on

a field scale. Two hundred acres of his 500-acre alfalfa field was treated in 1916 and recently he has made plans to repeat this treatment on the entire area as the first applications have worn out. The county agent of Klamath County recently sent out questionnaires and the following are typical replies:

"Alfalfa is two to one heavier where sulphured," F. T. Nelson.

"Over twice as much as last year because of sulphur," Harry Telford.

"Stand is cleaner and thicker and about 46 inches higher," Charles Mack.

"Increased first cutting at least one hundred per cent," Fred Peterson.

Indications are that the soils over much of the state of Washington will respond as well as the Oregon soils. It now appears that the soils resulting from disintegration of the basaltic rock of the Northwest are deficient in sulphur content.

Soil specialists indicate that there is but little danger of injuring the soil from sulphur applications, particularly when the hay is fed on the farm. Equally as good results are secured with sulphur on red and alsike clovers on the basaltic soils.

F. L. Ballard.

LAMB MARKET NOTES

Top lambs at Chicago this year realized \$17 in May. During the range season, July to October, tops were: July, \$16.25; August, \$14.15; September, \$15; and October, \$13.75. The August top was made by feeders, fat lambs stopping at \$14.10.

A healthy lamb market condition early in November reflected country competition on a class of stock known as "comebacks," Western lambs that had been running in cornfields, but lacked finish. Killers would have taken them "at a price," but encountered competition from Michigan feeders, who paid more than they were worth to killers, or \$12.50@12.65.

This creates a condition that relieves killers of the obligation of tak-

ing everything, confining them to finished stock, and if it continues will maintain a stout prop under the price list.

October receipts of sheep and lambs at Chicago aggregated 538,730 head, or 69,963 more than last year. This was a liberal run, but far below October in previous years. Omaha received 421,518, or 65,371 more than in October, 1922.

Looking back over the record current receipts are anything but heavy. In October, 1919, Chicago received 716,000 sheep and lambs, and in 1918, the run for that month was 671,000. In 1910, October produced 896,000, which was a record for that month. October receipts during the 1910 to 1913 period were above the 800,000 mark each year.

Omaha's October run was the largest for that month since 1918, when it handled 571,421. In October, 1912, Omaha received 677,077, and in 1911, 716,092 head. As far back as 1906 Omaha received in excess of 400,000 sheep and lambs in October.

Kansas City's October run was 201,468, compared with 193,474 last year. In 1920 the October run at Kansas City was only 145,515, but in 1916 it was 239,055.

ORDERLY LIVE STOCK MARKET- ING SOUGHT BY CO-OPERA- TIVE CONCERN

The following statement is issued by the National Live Stock Producers Association:

The saving of \$175,000 in refunds to members of the National Live Stock Producers Association during the first twenty-one months of operation at a saving of approximately \$5 per car is not the big accomplishment desired, according to John Brown, a dirt farmer from Monon, Indiana, who is president of the organization. This association operates on a co-operative plan of selling live stock.

"We are, of course, very glad to pay the 30 per cent dividend represented by the \$175,000 sent back to members, but we expect to do more when we get live stock producers to send their animals to market in more even numbers and in quantities comparable with the demand for meats.

"The present 'glut and famine' system of marketing live stock benefits no one but the retailer of meats," continues Mr. Brown. "Producers of live stock ship the bulk of their products on a down market, which means a loss.

"The packer doesn't benefit greatly by this, because he varies his price of meat to the retailer in accordance with the fluctuations in the price of live stock. But the butcher keeps his prices at the peak and is really the only one who benefits by the drop in live stock prices caused by the present disorderly system of marketing live stock followed by producers.

"We are now handling about 10 per cent of the total live stock shipped to the thirteen markets where we operate, and when we increase this percentage materially, we expect to remedy the situation to the benefit of the producers, packer, and consumer."

Mr. Brown says that it is not the policy of the National Producers to "bark up the legislative tree" to relieve the live stock producer, but that the association aims to do its part by introducing a better and cheaper system of live stock marketing through co-operation."

The phenomenal growth of the producers' organization makes its further plans to stabilize the live stock market not so difficult as may seem at first thought. The first office of the organization was established at the St. Louis stock yards in January, 1922. At present there are thirteen selling agencies in operation.

During the first six months of 1923, 27,017 cars of live stock were handled as compared with 3,932 cars for the first six months of 1922. For these periods the value of live stock handled was \$37,795,000, and \$5,908,000, respectively.

"THE INTERNATIONAL" FOCUSES BREEDERS' ATTENTION ON CHICAGO

The eyes of the agricultural world will be centered upon Chicago the first week in December when the twenty-fourth anniversary session of the famous International Live Stock Exposition will be held from the 1st to 8th.

The center of attraction will, as it has been for nearly a quarter of a century, be the mammoth display of the highest examples of the master breeders' and feeders' art. Over ten thousand of the finest cattle, horses, sheep and swine will be on exhibition in the International Amphitheatre and scores of surrounding buildings. The champion animals from the state and regional fairs, as well as many which have been fitted especially for this show, will here meet in the tan-bark arena before the court of highest resort. William Reid, the noted British judge, is coming across the ocean to pass upon the individual beef steers and select the grand champion beefe of the world.

The largest and finest assembly of carloads of finished market cattle, sheep and swine will be on exhibition in the Chicago Union Stock Yards adjoining the International Show Grounds. Several hundred carloads of carefully selected and masterfully fitted animals have been groomed for months by the veteran feeders of many sections of the country for the supreme contest at Chicago.

The largest Grain and Hay Show in the world will be staged as a department of the original live-stock exposition. During the four years in which this innovation has been in effect, it has grown by leaps and bounds until this year over 5,000 samples of the choicest products of the soil will be found in the exhibition halls adjoining the arena.

Fifteen hundred boys and girls, the champions in junior club work in forty-six states, will attend the second National Boys' and Girls' Club Congress as a reward for outstanding achievements in their club projects.

Many agricultural colleges and experiment stations, as well as the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will portray the scope of their endeavors by means of living demonstrations and pictorial booths.

Brilliant evening entertainments will be staged each night in the mammoth amphitheatre to cap the climax of a busy day's activities. On these programs will appear the finest driving and riding horses in the show stables of the country. The daily exhibition of expert driving of massive six-horse teams of drafters is a sight that will thrill the most passive spectator. Exciting polo contests and other special numbers vie for the popularity of the crowd and make the night show one of the most spectacular events to be seen anywhere.

Special reduced rates will be in effect on the railroads during this exposition and many thousands of visitors will avail themselves of this opportunity to attend the International Live Stock Exposition and at the same time enjoy the many advantages and attractions of the metropolis. The business interests of Chicago are making great preparations to entertain this vast army of visitors and make their stay in the City by the Lake one of the most pleasant and profitable events of their lifetime.

LAMB CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN EASTERN STATES

We asked for lamb, times innumerable and with unvarying ill success, on a leisurely motor trip from Chicago to the Atlantic seaboard, traversing Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Other than the mountain areas this region is densely populated by people with high purchasing capacity, but they do not eat lamb. Until we reached Washington it was not to be found on restaurant menu cards. At one hotel in the Cumberland Mountains roast lamb appeared on the dinner card, but it proved to be an ill-cooked, unpalatable dish. At the average restaurant request for lamb elicited surprise. The ubiquitous ham or bacon and eggs was always available, pork chops and roast pork were "standbys" and there was a superabundance of beef, mostly indifferent in quality and served in various guises, but everywhere lamb was conspicuous by its absence. Poultry consumption is enormous, even at high prices, way-side hotels unanimously parading chicken dinners at prices ranging from \$1 to \$2 per head, according to the trimmings and the settings of the caravansary, but we got no lamb, not even a chop after making insistent requisition.

Into this territory Western packers are sending enormous quantities of beef and hog product which goes into immediate consumption. In fact interruption of transportation for 24 hours would clean the larder shelves. Even if 10 per cent of consumption was lamb, a stout prop would be put under the live market. The subject may not seriously concern Western flockmasters under present conditions, but an increase of even 25 per cent in local lamb production would radically change the existing market status by saturating Jersey City, which appears to be the sole outlet for the lamb crop of Pennsylvania, Maryland, the Virginias, New York and sections of Ohio. If the "raise more sheep" advocate could have his way, both wool and lamb production in

these states would be substantially increased to the serious detriment of Western lamb raisers under existing consumption conditions, unless consumption develops in the area west of the Atlantic coast cities. Had Jersey City, Buffalo and Pittsburg been congested with native lambs during the past sixty days the \$12.50@13.75 market recorded would have been impossible. Prices at Omaha and Chicago have been made by Eastern shippers who would not have been in evidence had they been able to satisfy their requirements nearer home.

Advocates of expansive sheep husbandry are distinctly audible all through the Eastern agricultural region, but they have not succeeded in getting an audience. We journeyed some 3,000 miles by highway and by-way, but saw few farm flocks and no bands of considerable size. The erratic Jersey City market and almost entire lack of local outlets for lambs have discouraged farm flock owners almost to the liquidation point. In the mountain region scarcity of winter feed is also a handicap to the industry, but probably the most potent factor operating to the exclusion of farm flocks in this section is the profitable dairy cow, which actually threatens extinction of cattle feeding and serious curtailment of hog production east of the Ohio-Indiana line. A banker in an eastern Iowa town, whose coffers are full of dairy revenue, put it this way when I asked him about sheep:

"Nothing doing with sheep so far as any funds this bank has to lend are concerned. A farmer came in the other day with the sheep bug in his head; wanted to buy 500 Western ewes and try his hand at lamb raising. 'What's the matter with your cows?' I said, 'they're making you wealthy.' 'Too much work milking,' was his response. I told him flatfootedly that if he bought ewes he would do it with his own money, and as he is paying for a farm that was out of the question. He made a loan of \$2,500 to buy more cows, the revenue from which will be available weekly."

Especially at current prices of Western ewes Eastern bankers, even in Ohio and Indiana, are discouraging farm flock investment. Likewise they are advising against cattle feeding for the reason that milk and poultry production are far more reliable and profitable. Dairy herds cannot be increased with sufficient celerity to keep pace with the demand for milk, and it must be remembered Eastern milk does not furnish raw material for milk and cheese, as practically the entire output goes into fluid milk channels and ice cream production. Ice cream is no longer a luxury, but a food necessity, having developed into a formidable competitor of pie in its various forms and Americans have been notoriously addicted to the pie eating habit. Ice cream has come to stay and the Eastern farmer will be kept busy producing the milk needed to cope with demand. Another cause of increased milk consumption is prohibition. Doubtless millions of gallons of beer are being illicitly brewed, but as this is sold surreptitiously and at inflated prices, its vendors are under the necessity of paying heavily for political protection and consequently it cannot compete with milk as a beverage. Where factory employes formerly "rushed the growler" for beer at noon in pre-Volstead days, they now drink milk, which is delivered at noon in sanitary packages. This has quadrupled milk consumption, distributing the enormous profits of brewers in former years among dairy farmers.

Any industrious farmer, who is considered as good moral risk, may borrow money to buy a herd of dairy cows, the revenue from which begins the day he acquires possession. If the money was put in sheep several months would necessarily elapse before he had a wool clip or a crop of lambs to sell and the history of both wool and lamb markets does not inspire bankers to enthuse over sheep paper. There is a market for milk right in the barnyard; wool in the selling state is a highly speculative proposition and when a load of lambs leaves for a distant market net returns are doubtful. Theoretically

the hill regions of Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Virginias constitute an ideal lamb breeding ground, but in the hill country agriculture is decadent rather than progressive; in fact an exodus on a large scale is in progress from Appalachia to the industrial centers of the East, where good wages await



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- No. 163. Care of Poultry.
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- No. 352. Blackleg Filtrate.
- No. 355. Blackleg Aggressin.
- No. 1051. Anthrax Prevention.

Animal Industry Department of

PARKE, DAVIS & CO.
DETROIT, MICH.

anyone able and willing to work; consequently any material increase in wool and lamb production in that part of the country is improbable as long as present agrarian and industrial conditions exist. It is possible to get into the dairy business over night and to produce a crop of marketable poultry within a few weeks; establishing a farm flock is a more difficult problem. What this life of two daily milking periods every day in the year means to the standard of living on farms and to the citizenship is a question that time alone can answer.

For years to come, if ever, Western lamb producers need entertain no serious apprehension of over-production if the Eastern farmer is to be considered a major factor in the equation. At present the lamb market is healthy simply because it is not saturated, and for no other reason, and saturation could easily be created by even moderate increase in Eastern lamb production. There is nothing wrong with the Jersey City lamb market as long as it is not glutted, as it inevitably will be if Eastern farm flocks multiply. Profitable Western lamb prices depend wholly on limited Eastern production, at least until Eastern consumption can be expanded. Jersey City prices will be smashed whenever a big run of natives is there to sell in competition with Western stuff forwarded by speculators, in conjunction with

Western dressed meat. The Atlantic seaboard consumes large quantities of lamb, but in a trade sense it is the jumping off place and when killers down that way get access to a few more head than are actually needed at the moment they proceed to "take it off" the price in chunks, embracing such opportunities to make a "killing." Speculators at Western markets have a confirmed habit of shipping in excessive numbers whenever Jersey City and other Eastern markets look attractive and whenever that condition exists Eastern lamb raisers commit similar indiscretion. Habits are hard to cure and until this practice can be discontinued Jersey City will continue to be a pitfall, if the East raises many lambs. Orderly marketing is a much lauded idea, and somewhat alluring in theory, but theory and practice are radically different. Avoid crowding Jersey City and it will not kick back. It is one of the important summer lamb markets of the country, but having no feeder outlet, and no outlet to other points for a temporary surplus, it is peculiarly subject to indigestion. Nothing that Congress, the Department of Agriculture, or any other agency can possibly accomplish will alleviate natural causes. The obvious remedy is to repress Eastern lamb production just as long as the sole outlet for that production is the big cities at the Atlantic seaboard.

Farm flock enthusiasts, sincere as their intentions may be, are barking up the wrong tree as the worst thing that could happen at this juncture is material increase in Eastern lamb production. Some years ago W. E. Skinner went from Chicago to Denver to inaugurate a raise-more-beef campaign. Assembling a group of cattle raisers he outlined his plans to stimulate cattle breeding. At the conclusion of his remarks Murdo McKenzie expressed himself somewhat emphatically in opposition. "I am in the cattle business," he said, "and it is my conscientious opinion that what the industry needs is fewer, not more." The same logic applies to lamb production at this moment.

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CONFessions of a "FREE TRADER"

Theoretically, I was once a "free trader," not because of the association of that principle with a political party in this country, but because of the cogency of the arguments advanced in its favor by the "Manchester school" of political economists in England. Theoretically, I can make Skillet Fork Farm pay, but practically I have not been able to do so. In practice, "free trade," so far as this country is concerned, has not built up "infant industries," nor produced adequate government revenues. We have never been on a "free trade" basis in its entirety. Both political parties include protectionists. I have voted for presidential candidates of each party. I am, therefore, a mugwump, defined by a newspaper humorist as one whose "mug" is on one side of the fence and his "wump" on the other.

Every time that I have been in the British Isles I have seen and sensed arguments for, rather than against, a tariff on their own imports. Politically, the principle has been oftener approved than condemned in the United States. I am not sufficiently informed to say whether, in the long run, it is sound, in relation to the future commercial development of the world's nations, or whether free trade would be the better policy, from that viewpoint. It is clear, however, that protection has worked in this country, under the conditions which have prevailed since it was adopted. Its success may have been responsible in part, as a psychological contrast, for the modest record made by the free trade principle in practice. There are compensations for the fact that one can buy in England certain American-made machines cheaper than one can buy them at home. One of these is that protected American industries can afford to pay high wages to labor, thereby financing and expanding an outlet for farm food products. It is hardly a sufficient answer to this to say that farmers who buy machinery made by labor employed in a plant whose output is protected pay for the

labor. We do buy commodities on a protected market and sell our surplus products on a free market, but is that an argument against protection or against surplus production?—D. C. Wing in 'All Around the Farm.'—Breeders' Gazette.

ADVERTISING LAMB

A series of twelve cards setting forth in a very attractive way the value of lamb in the diet and the proper way to prepare it have recently been issued by Swift & Co. Each card also includes several appetizing recipes. The first of the series is printed below:

Lamb is a wholesome meat, highly digestible, very palatable and nutritious when properly prepared. It gives variety to the meat diet, and is a welcome change from beef and pork. It is an economical meat to buy—a whole forequarter, weighing about 8 or 9 pounds, including the neck, breast, chuck or shoulder, and shank, may be purchased at one time, and easily handled in the average home.

Breakfast Lamb

Cut up cooked meat, sprinkle with flour, add bacon fat and seasonings. Brown in bacon fat. Stew slowly in gravy, or water if no gravy is available, for 15 minutes.

Season with little lemon juice. Serve hot with potatoes, or lima beans.

Lamb With French Toast

2 eggs $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk 1 teaspoon onion juice
 Beat together, dip rather thick slices of bread in it until quite soft; fry until brown on both sides.

Minced cooked lamb, sprinkle it with flour and brown it well in bacon fat. Add gravy or water to make it moist, and serve it on the toast for breakfast or lunch.

Lamb Loaf Salad

1 package jelly powder (lemon or plain)
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups cold minced lamb
 2 tablespoons chopped green peppers
 1 cup chopped celery
 Make the pint of jelly powder, add other ingredients and let stand until well set in small loaf pan.

Serve individual salads, combining a slice of the loaf salad, a slice of tomato, and a leaf of lettuce.

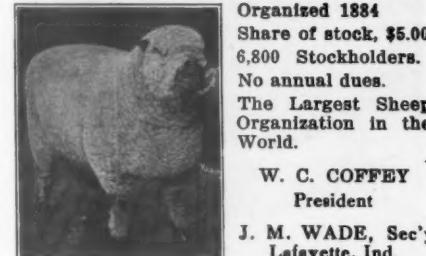
Barbecued Lamb

Cut cold roasted lamb in thin slices and reheat them in a sauce made as follows:
 2 tablespoons butter or oleomargarine.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon vinegar
 $1\frac{3}{4}$ cup currant jelly
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon mustard

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Forty yearlings,—half, three-quarter, and a few full-blooded. Priced right.
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The American Shropshire Registry Ass'n.



Organized 1884
 Share of stock, \$5.00
 6,800 Stockholders.
 No annual dues.
 The Largest Sheep Organization in the World.

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The best mutton sheep. Evidence; the highest-priced car mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires. The price was 42 cents a pound live weight, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred. When you want sheep you want Hampshires. When you want Hampshires let the American Hampshire Sheep Association send you a dandy little booklet and list of live breeders.

Write Comfort A. Tyler, Secretary,
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30 Yearling Registered Rams

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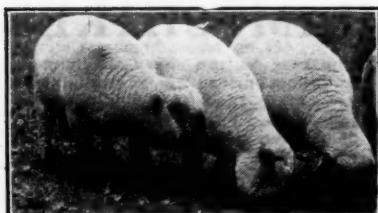
IMPORTED HAMPSHIRES

The Thousand Springs Farm announces the arrival at the farm of fifty carefully selected yearling ewes from the Pendley Manor Flock in England.

Before leaving the British Isles these ewes were bred to a noted Hampshire Stud Ram. The lambs from these ewes should make a valuable addition to the Hampshire flocks in America.

THOUSAND SPRINGS FARM
Wendell, Idaho

Minnie W. Miller, Owner



Yearling Hampshire Stud Rams of unusual merit, descended from imported stock. Bred, owned and for sale by

H. L. FINCH, Soda Springs, Idaho

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CON- GRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

of National Wool Grower, published monthly, at Salt Lake City, Utah, for October 1, 1923.

State of Utah, County of Salt Lake, ss.:

Before me, a notary public, in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared F. R. Marshall, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the National Wool Grower, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, National Wool Growers Association Co., 303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Editor, F. R. Marshall, 303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Managing Editor, none.

Business Manager, F. R. Marshall, 303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. That the owner is: (If the publication is owned by an individual his name and address, or if owned by more than one individual the name and address of each, should be given below; if the publication is owned by a corporation the name of the corporation and the names and addresses of the stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of the total amount of stock should be given.)

National Wool Growers Association, an unincorporated body, Salt Lake City, Utah, and thirteen state wool growers' associations (unincorporated). F. J. Hagenbarth, president; F. R. Marshall, secretary.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him. F. R. MARSHALL, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1923.

M. B. STINCHCOMB,
Notary public residing in Salt Lake City, Utah.

My commission expires May 8, 1927.

HOME ECONOMIC TEACHERS IN HIGH SCHOOLS CO-OPERATING WITH NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

Home economic teachers in high schools are showing a great interest in the booklet, Meat for Health, which is put out by the National Livestock and Meat Board.

On October 15th approximately 1,500 letters were mailed to high school teachers informing them that the National Livestock and Meat Board would furnish a booklet on meat for use in class work and for distribution. In reply to this letter the board to date has received requests from 381 home economic teachers in high schools, asking for approximately 21,865 of the booklets for use in home economic classes. These booklets are sent only where the requests come from the teachers.

This channel opens up a new opportunity for educating the public regarding the food value of meat. Use of the booklet in high schools will mean that the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who are taking home economics, will use our booklet, Meat For Health, in their class work.

The supply of booklets which the board had on hand has been exhausted. An order has been placed for a reprint of 30,000 of the booklets. It will require approximately 20,000 additional booklets for high school distribution.

Up to the present time New York state leads in the number of requests from high school teachers for the pamphlet. As New York is in the heavy consuming district and also one of the great dairy sections, this interest indicates that a very desired inroad is being made with educational material on the value of meat in the diet.

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